



New Britain



IN AND
ABOUT

NEW BRITAIN.

ILLUSTRATED & PUBLISHED
-BY-
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NEW BRITAIN, CT

IN the preparation of this work we have aimed to give the most characteristic and representative views in and about our city. To make it as fair and impartial as possible, all solicitation of an advertising nature has been avoided.

Some subjects, worthy a place among those here, may have been omitted, as in a book of the kind, with a necessary limit, it is not possible to include all of the best.

We wish to extend our thanks to those who have helped us in any way, especially to those who have kindly loaned us photos for the portraits in the book, and to Mr. James Shepard and Mr. Frederick Wessel for the use of photographs from their private collections.

That the people of New Britain will appreciate our efforts, is the hope of

THE PUBLISHERS

IN AND ABOUT NEW BRITAIN.

CONCERNING the growth of cities, one who evidently has given the subject much consideration, makes this assertion: "the resources, geographical position and topography will be found to exercise a controlling influence, since they determine the greater or lesser facility of locomotion, and it is this feature which regulates, more than any other, the rate of increase."

New Britain's lack of these aids is almost proverbial; yet in spite of this lack, its rapid growth during the last half century, or even within the last score of years, has been marvelous. We must look elsewhere then for those elements which have contributed their quota toward this phenomenal growth.

There must have been staunch material in the first settlers of New Britain, for even a hasty perusal of the story of their early struggles and achievements proves how grandly equipped they were in courage, perseverance, intelligence and unfaltering faith in God. They came out from those earlier settlers of Farmington, and built for themselves rude homes; some not far removed from the borders of Farmington, while others, more bold, pushed farther south into the depths of the forest and located in what is now known as Christian Lane. A small, plain meeting house was built at Christian Lane, on the high ground on the east side of the present highway, a short distance south of the track of the Midletown railroad.

Rev. William Burnham, from Wethersfield, was the first pastor of this church and his labors seem to have commenced about the year 1707, although the meeting house was not completed until 1712. In 1739 a petition was presented to the General Assembly asking for a church in the New Britain Society. This petition was followed by others but it was not until fifteen petitions had been presented that relief came. In May, 1751, an act was passed by the Assembly limiting the Society of Kensington and constituting the Society of New Britain.

The New Britain Ecclesiastical society held its first meeting June 13, 1754, appointed officers, and voted to build a meeting house. These officers were chiefly residents of East street. During the interval which elapsed before the meeting house was built religious services were held at private houses, in barns, or at the school house. Different ministers preached and they were generally paid "ten pounds old tenor" for each Sunday.

This site of the meeting house was a few rods northwest of the present junction of Smalley street with Elm street, near what is now known as Paradise Park. The building was commenced in the fall of 1755, and completed some years later. The primitive forest partially surrounded the spot. The open space in front was used for over fifty years as a parade ground for the local militia. The small burial plot, 80 rods east of the church, is now included in the Fairview Cemetery. This first Church of New Britain was organized with over sixty members April 19, 1758, and its pastor, Rev. John Smalley, was ordained the same day. For fifty years there was no other church in New Britain.

In 1822, this society built a larger church edifice on the present site of the Burritt school. In 1855 the present church edifice was completed and dedicated. July 5, 1842, a portion of the members of the First Congregational Church withdrew, and organized the South Congregational Church. Their first house of worship was built before the church was organized and was dedicated in the Spring of 1842. Rev. Samuel Rockwell, its first pastor, was installed January 3, 1843. In the Spring of 1864, the church was removed to make room for the present beautiful

stone church edifice. This was completed in the winter of 1867-68, and dedicated January 16, 1868. The cost was about one hundred and forty thousand dollars. In 1888-89 an addition was made to the chapel at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars. The membership of their church January 1, 1889, was 807, and of the Sunday school 1,104.

The other denominations have had various houses of worship, as their needs required. The First Baptist Church was organized in 1808. They have had three buildings, the present one erected in 1869.

The Trinity M. E. Church was built in 1889-90. The first Methodist church was built in 1828, and another on the same site in 1854. St. Mark's parish was organized in 1836. Other churches, as the need has arisen, have been erected, until at the present time there are thirteen churches within the city limits.

New Britain was divided from Berlin in 1850 and became a town by itself. The borough of New Britain was incorporated the same year. The first meeting of the borough was held August 12, 1850, and these officers elected: F. T. Stanley, warden, O. S. North, G. M. Landers, Walter Gladden, Marcellus Clark, T. W. Stanley and A. L. Finch, burgesses.

As the town grew an adequate water supply became an urgent need. In 1857 a charter was obtained which empowered the borough to construct suitable water works. It was suggested to purchase Shuttle Meadow and conduct water from thence to the town through more than five miles of pipes. The scheme was condemned by many. Alvin North considered it an impossibility and offered to drink every drop of water thus obtained. F. T. Stanley, one of the leading spirits in the enterprise, brought from Colebrook River, Mass., Abiram Chamberlain, father of V. B. Chamberlain, a civil engineer of wide experience, to superintend the work. It was a great undertaking but was ably carried to a successful issue. Recent improvements have added greatly to the capacity of the system and promise a never failing supply.

The rapid growth of the town and large increase in population necessitated a change in the direction of its municipal affairs and in 1870 a city charter was obtained. The first city election was held April 10, 1871, when Frederick T. Stanley was elected mayor, E. L. Goodwin, clerk, and A. P. Collins, treasurer. Successive mayors have been Samuel W. Hart, David N. Camp, Ambrose Beatty, John B. Talcott, J. Andrew Pickett, J. C. Atwood, L. Hoyt Pease, and John Walsh.

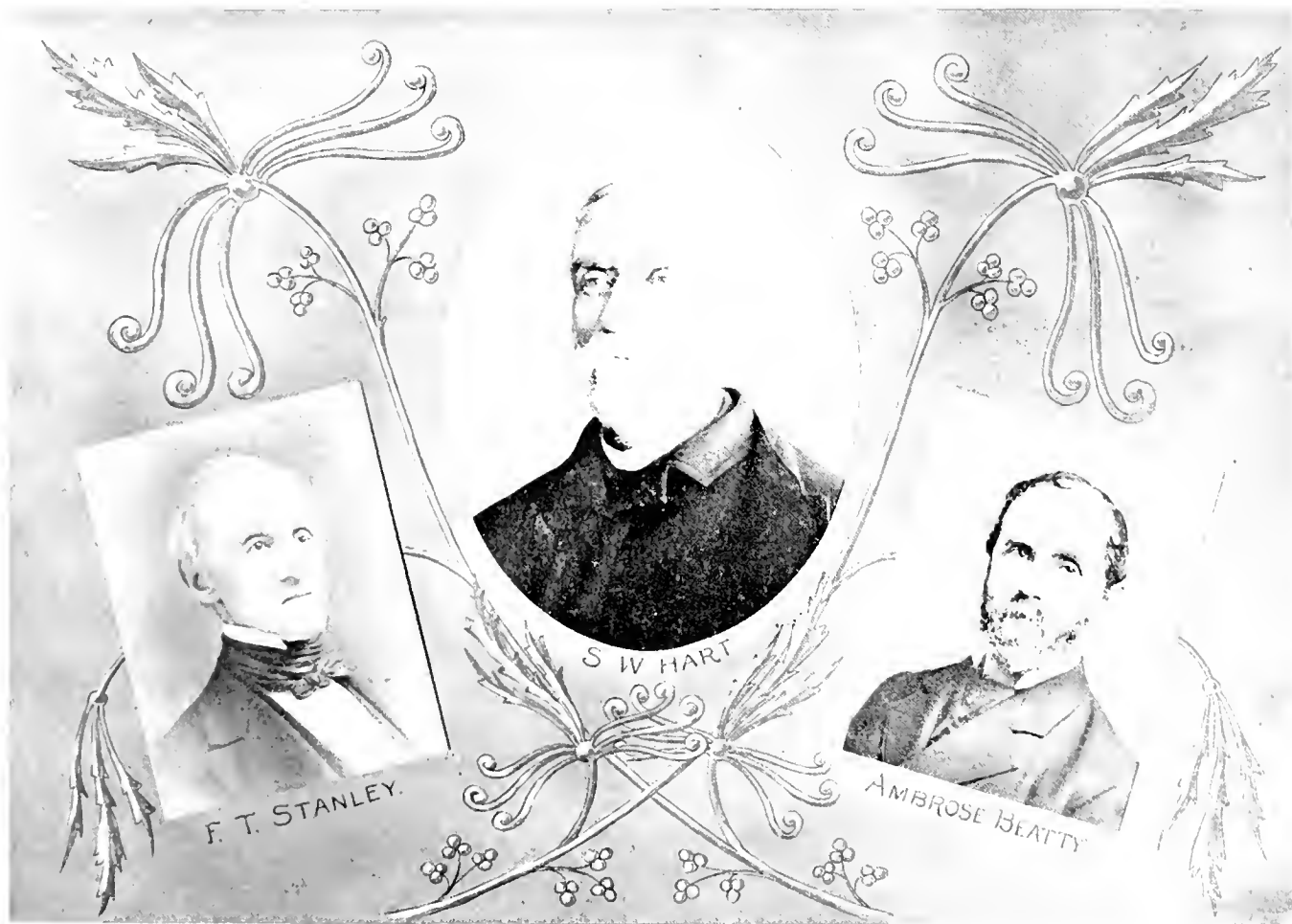
The post office was established in New Britain in 1825. For a little more than three years the office was kept in the stone store on the west side of Main street, opposite the head of East Main. Since then it has had several homes, having occupied the present building since 1870. The postal delivery system was adopted in 1887.

In 1850 the Hartford, Providence & Fishkill railroad, now the New York & New England, was in operation from Hartford east to Williamantic, and west to Bristol. It was extended to Providence in 1854 and to Waterbury in 1855. In 1865 the New Britain branch road was opened, and in 1866 was merged with the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R.

The Tramway Company, whose lines are laid through the principal streets of the city, propose to adopt electric service before another year passes. It is altogether probable the West Main street line will be extended to Plainville in the near future, and will eventually connect this city with Bristol.

From the earliest settlement of the town special efforts have been made to promote the cause of education. The New Britain school society was organized in 1796; the School Fund was established in 1795. The high rank which the public schools of this city hold to-day among the schools of the state is the natural outgrowth of these early and sustained efforts.

Prof. Ethan A. Andrews and Elihu Burritt are among the widely known scholars New Britain has given to the world.



S. W. HART



F. T. STANLEY



AMBROSE BEATTY



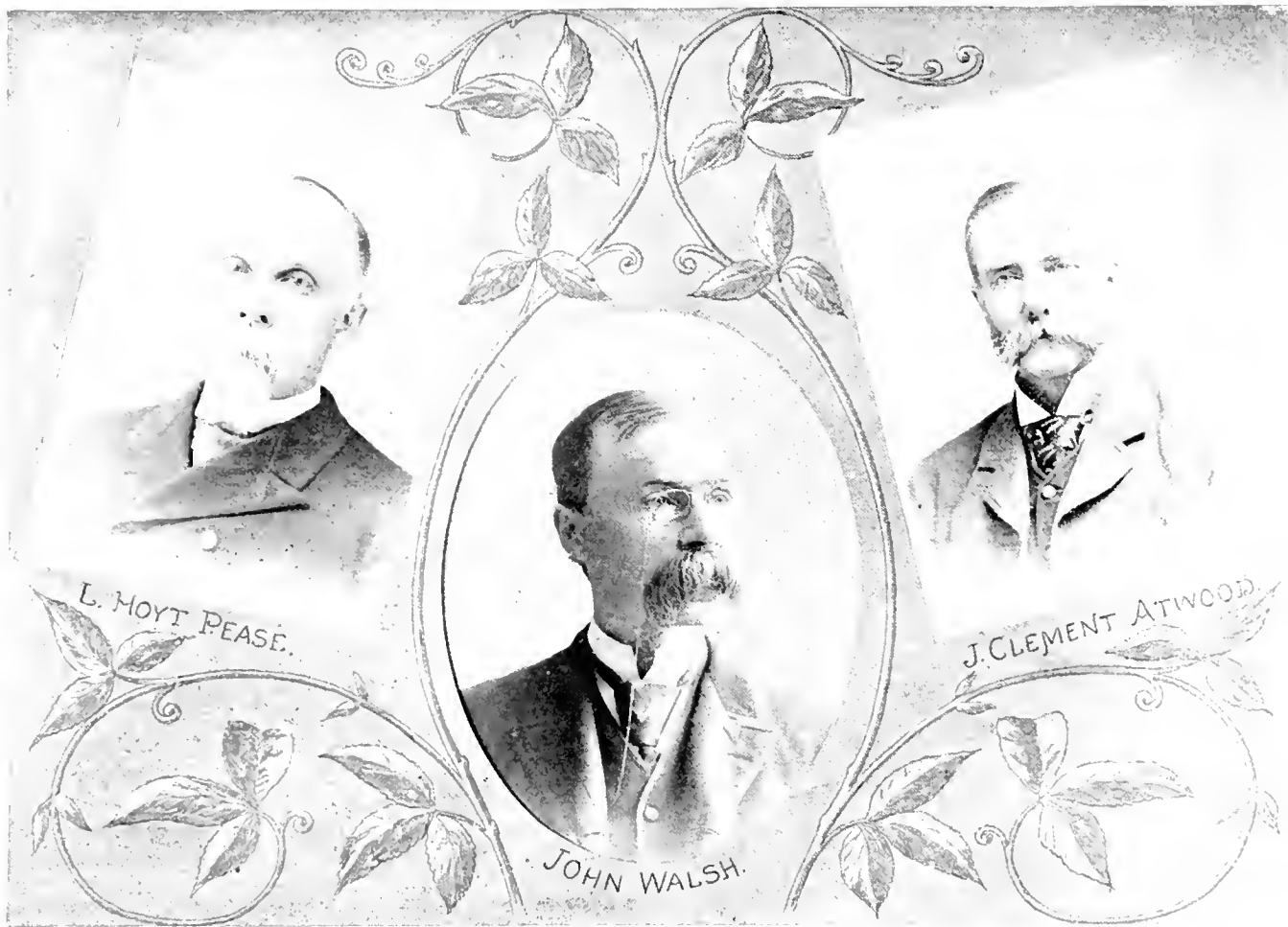
D. N. CAMP



J. B. TALCOTT



J. A. PICKETT



L. HOYT PEASE.

JOHN WALSH.

J. CLEMENT ATWOOD.



ETHAN A. ANDREWS.





C. E. MITCHELL



V. B. CHAMBERLAIN



J. H. PECK



RUSSWIN BUILDING.



BOOTH'S CORNER.



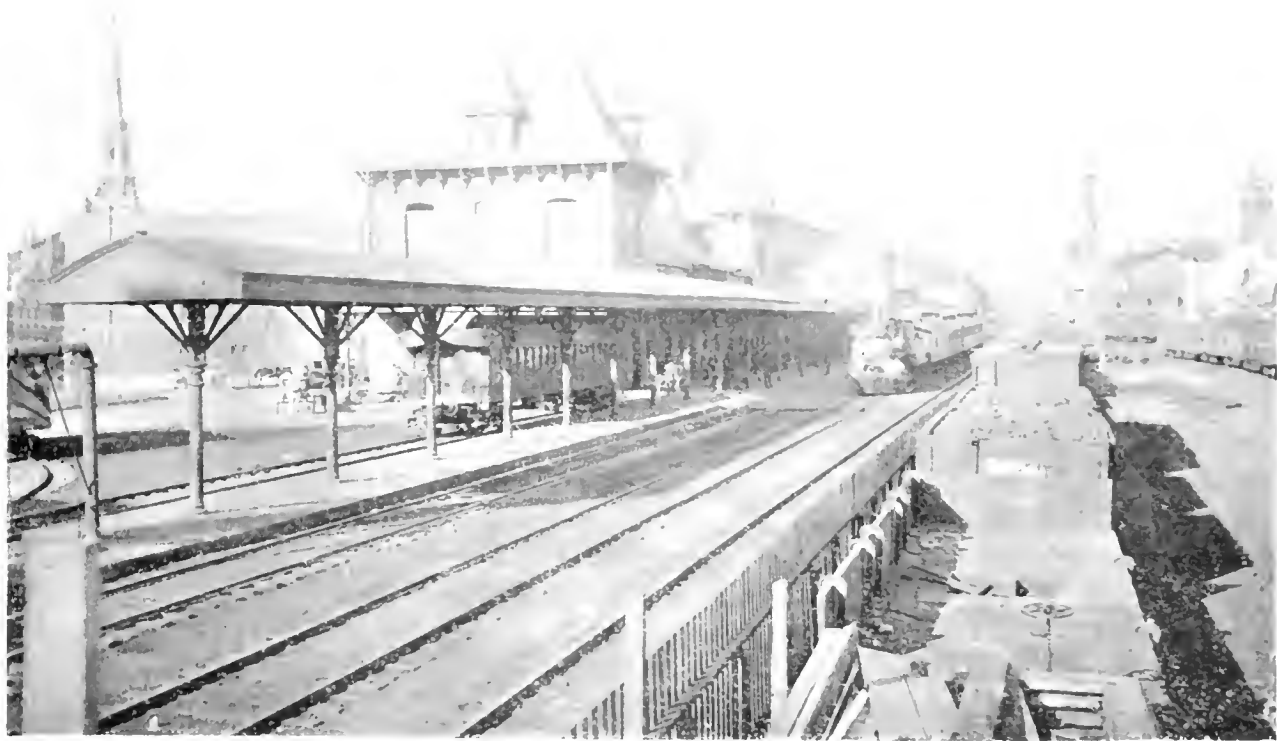
WEST SIDE MAIN STREET



STERLING & HOLMES BLOCK



CHURCH STREET



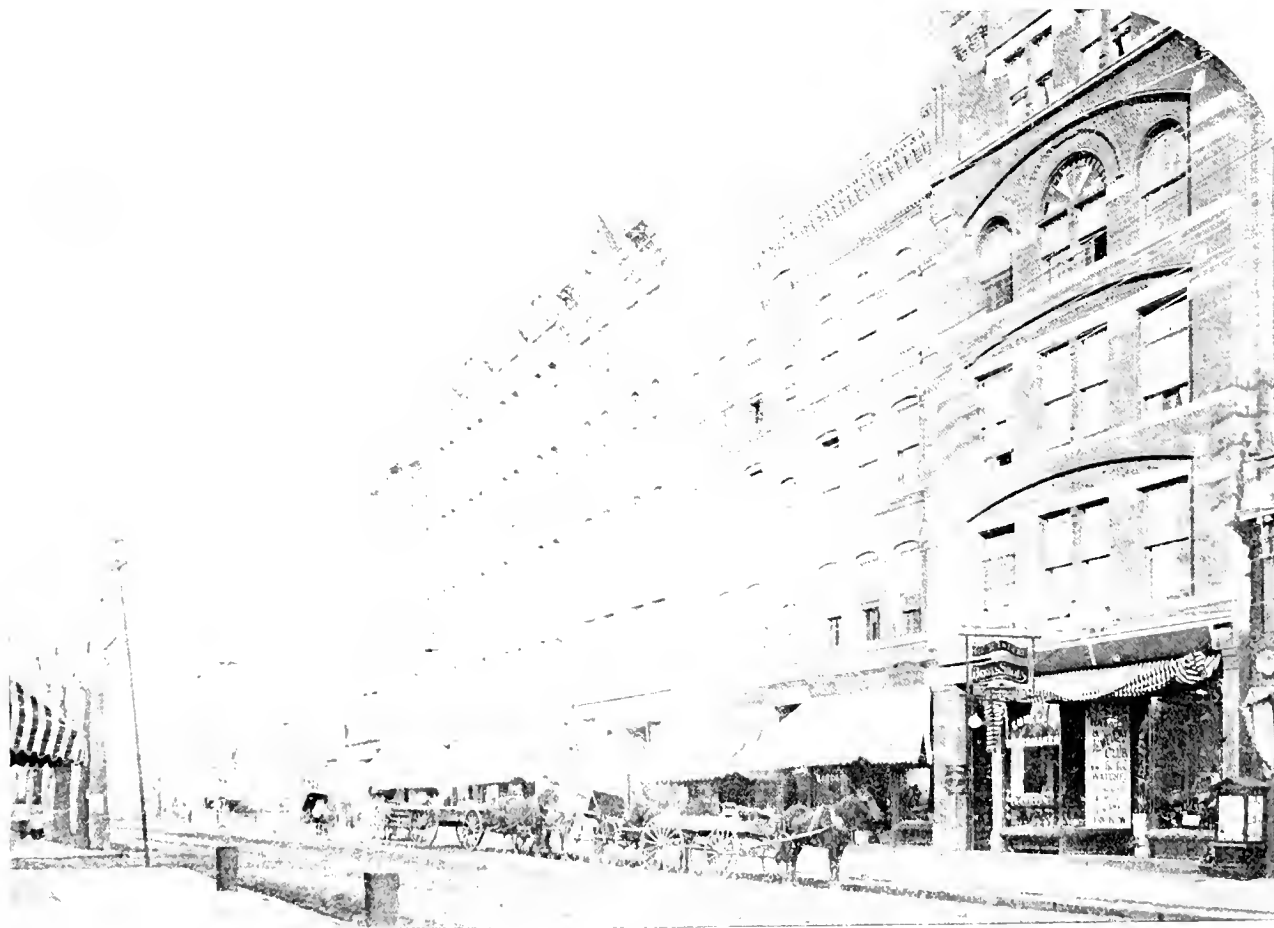
PAIDGAY S. C. C.



EAST SIDE MAIN STREET.



ARCH STREET FROM MAIN



EAST SIDE MAIN ABOVE COMMERCIAL STREET



MAIN STREET NORTH, C. C. STERLING HOTEL



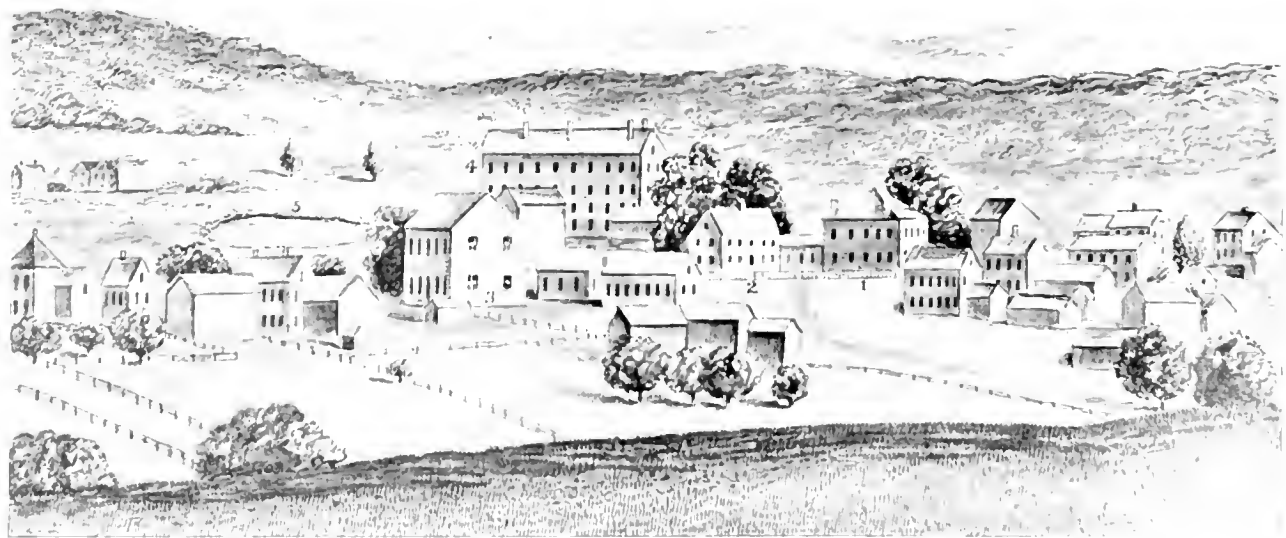
VIEW FROM NORMAL SCHOOL.



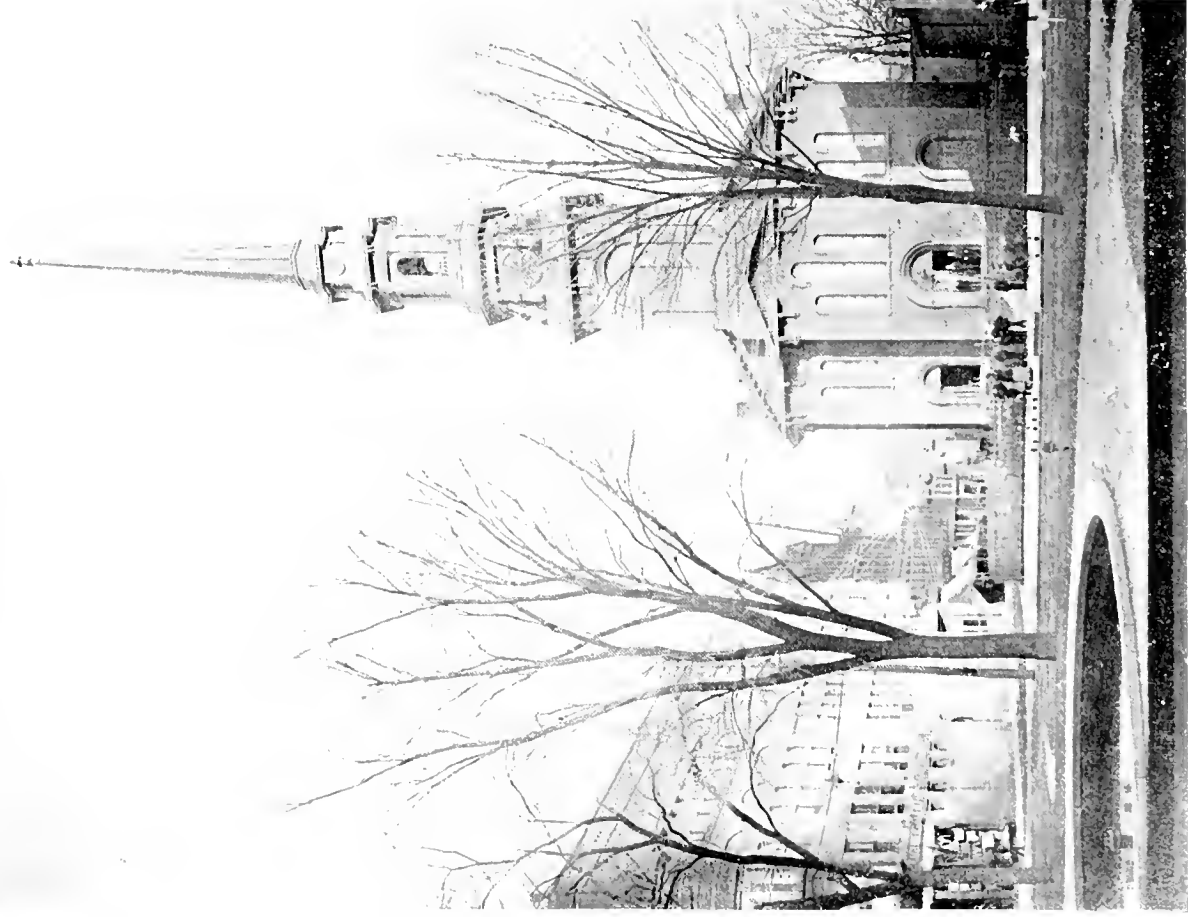
VIEW FROM NORMAL SCHOOL.

NEW BRITAIN IN 1836.

TO the new comer this view of the town in its younger days would seem to have no connection with the city of to-day, but the older resident will find a certain charm in its revival of pleasant memories. Prominent in the foreground is a barn-like structure (No. 3,) in which the faithful Methodist brothers and sisters worshipped in the years ago. The bare-looking building when it had served its generation, was piloted down Arch street, where for some years it did duty as a basket factory. Later on it was purified by fire and again converted into a meeting house and is at present occupied as the People's Church. Up the street to the north the old Hendrick house may be recognized. This was built by Dr. Samuel Hart for a tavern and was kept as a temperance house. The house (No. 2,) is the Lewis place next the Trinity M. E. Church. The square-roofed house on the right, (No. 1,) is the Rockwell place. It was built in 1831 by John Stanley (father of the late Oliver Stanley) and was occupied by him and his family. The four-story building (No. 4,) which looks so staunch and firm—is it possible that it is now “Sargent's block”? At the date of the picture this was the shop of Seth J. North who was already a prominent manufacturer. The little triangular pond, (No. 5,) was near the corner of Elm and Church streets and it was generally known as “The Canal.” How many now recall the narrow tow-path that skirted it and extended to Main street? It made a convenient cross-lot path for those employed in the factory, and on pleasant evenings was somewhat noted as a “Lovers' Walk.” In winter the “Canal” was a famous skating resort to which the boys and girls of that period flocked in merry crowds. The “Canal” also served another purpose, for there, in summer or winter, the converts of the Baptist church received the rite of immersion. Hundreds would stand on the narrow tow-path, braving the keen blasts of Winter, to witness minister and convert, as, through an aperture cut in the ice, they went down into the freezing water. It seemed a hazardous proceeding. Elm street was soon after laid out. It was considered a dangerous locality then—not as now, from flying locomotives, but because of its rocks and steep banks. One old resident said he always gave devout thanks when he had safely passed over its perils. The intervening space between this locality and East street, devoted then to pasturage, with here and there wooded spaces, is now intersected with streets where stand some of our finest residences.



NEW BRITAIN IN 1830.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



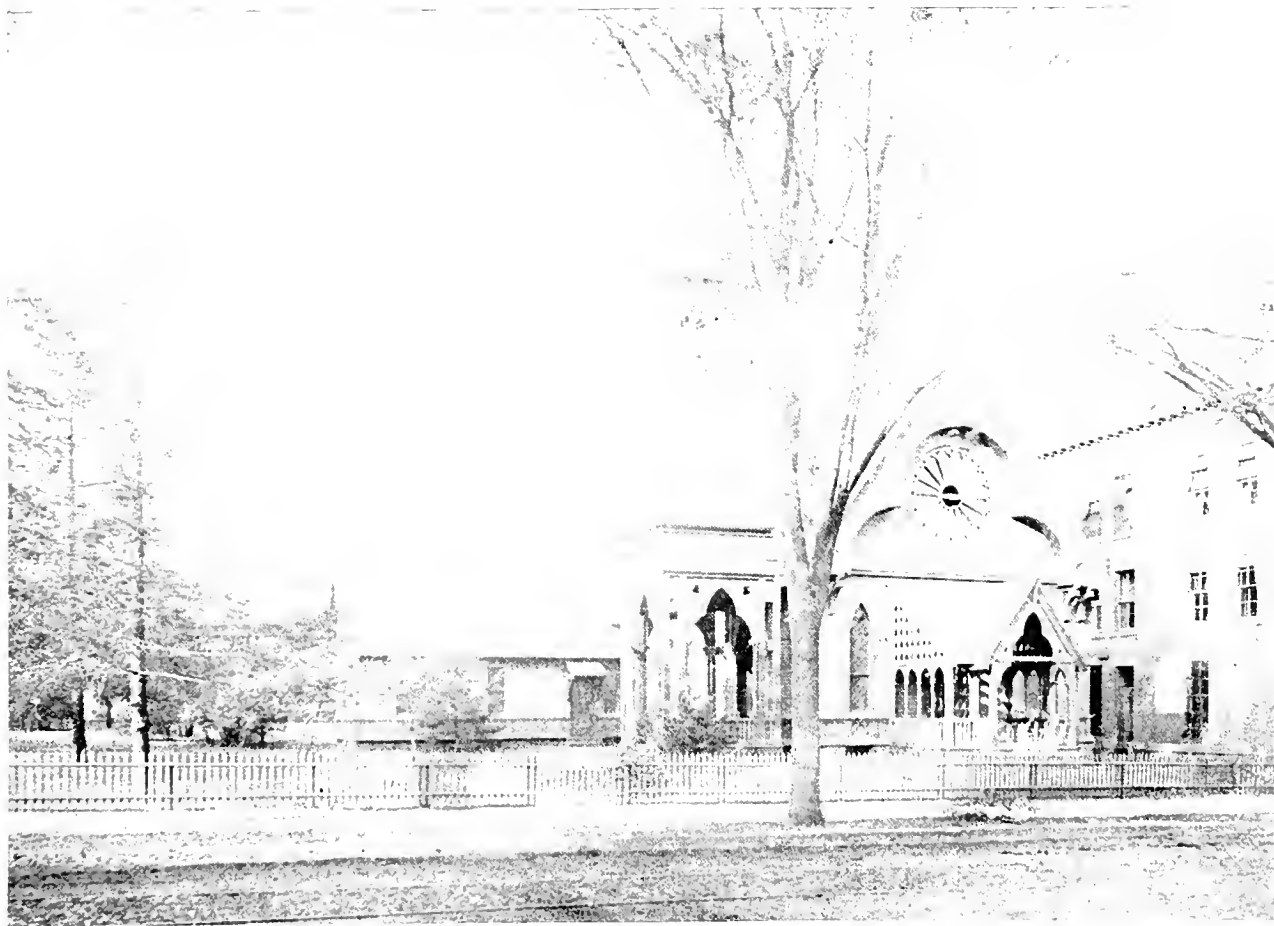
SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



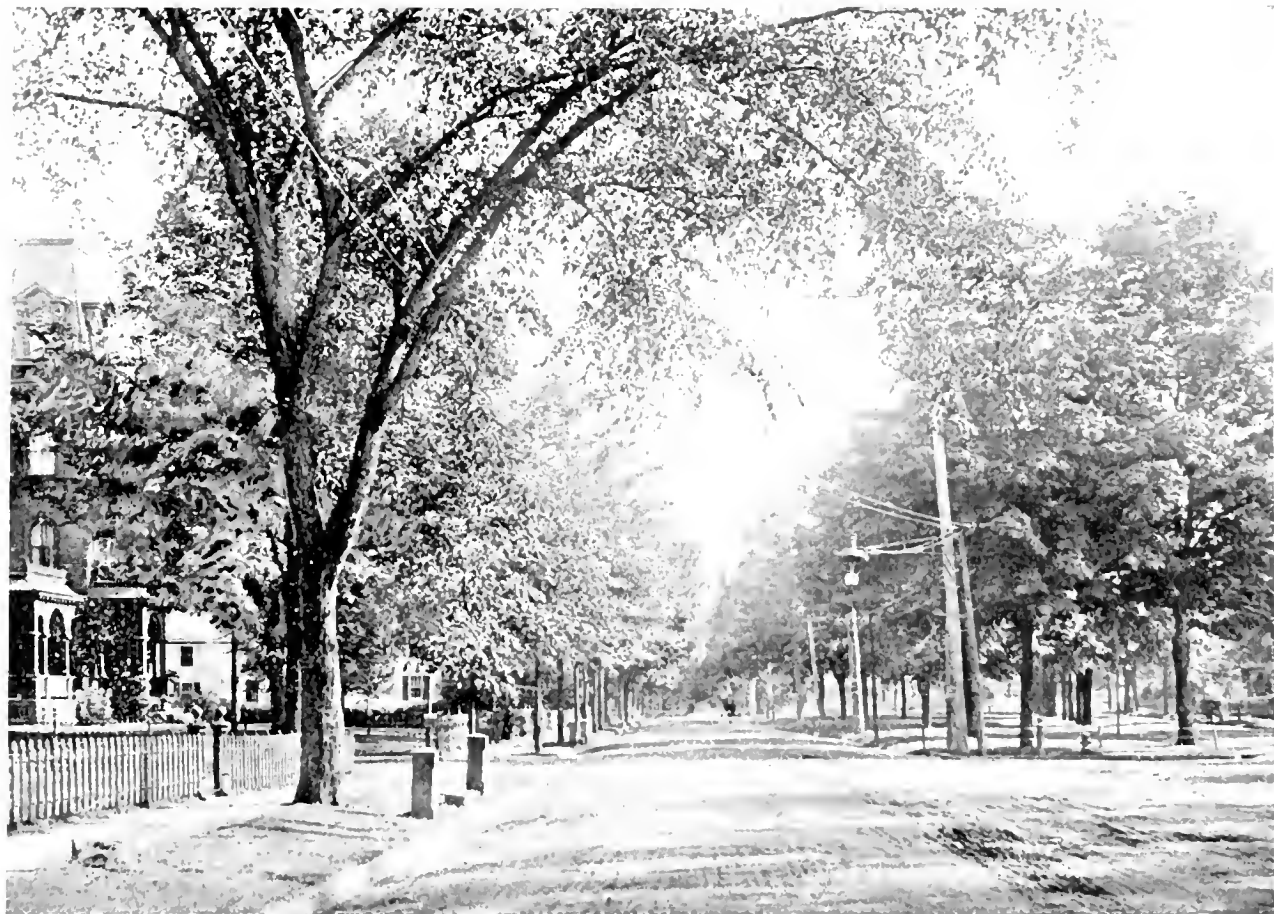
TURN HALL.



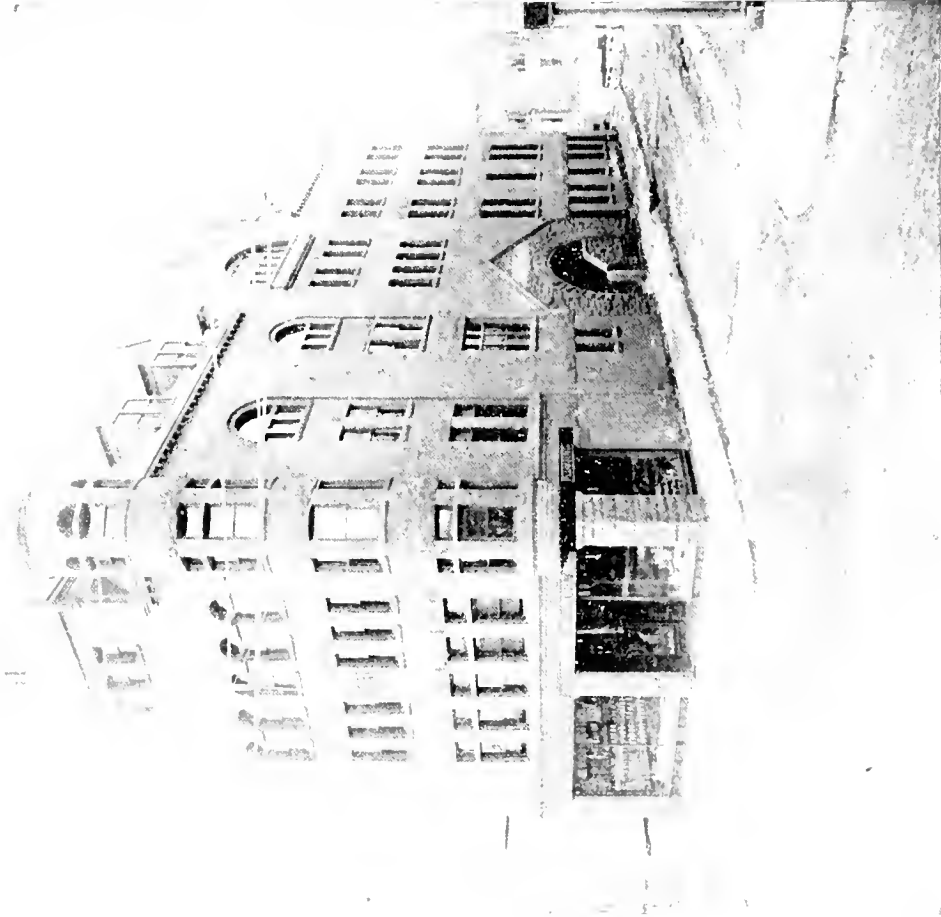
STATE ARMORY



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.



SOUTH PARK



Y. M. C. A. BUILDING

Y. M. C. A.

THE Young Men's Christian Association of New Britain, was founded in 1884. Its first home was in rooms in the second story of Central Block, which was burned February 21, 1885. Temporary rooms were found in the "Old Stanley House," and later in the Savings Bank Building. The Association remained in the latter place until the present building was completed.

The building movement had its start in November, 1885, although a lot had been purchased several months before.

The present building was finished and opened to the public February 12, 1886.

At that time it claimed the honor of being the finest Association building in any town of the size of New Britain in the country.

The ground floor is rented for business purposes. The remainder of the building contains parlor, social room, separate reading rooms for men and boys, educational class rooms, a hall with a seating capacity of four hundred, gymnasium and bath and locker rooms, besides a large reception hall, toilet rooms and offices.

The janitor has his home in the building, a pleasant tenement for his use, being situated on the upper floor.

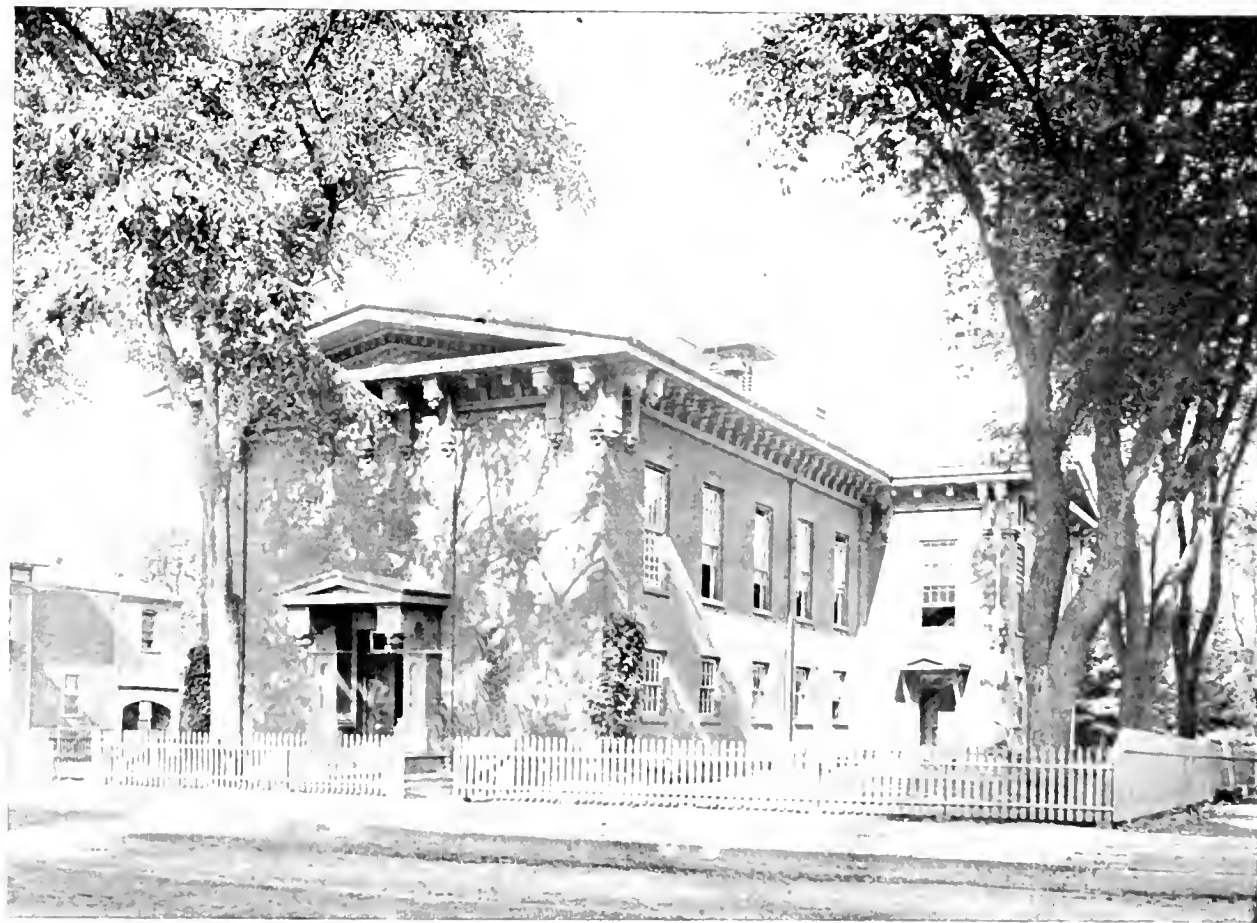
The Association stands for the development of manly men upon the four sides of their nature—physical, mental, social and spiritual.

It is under Christian auspices, but is entirely non-sectarian.

It has been productive of much good for the young men of New Britain.



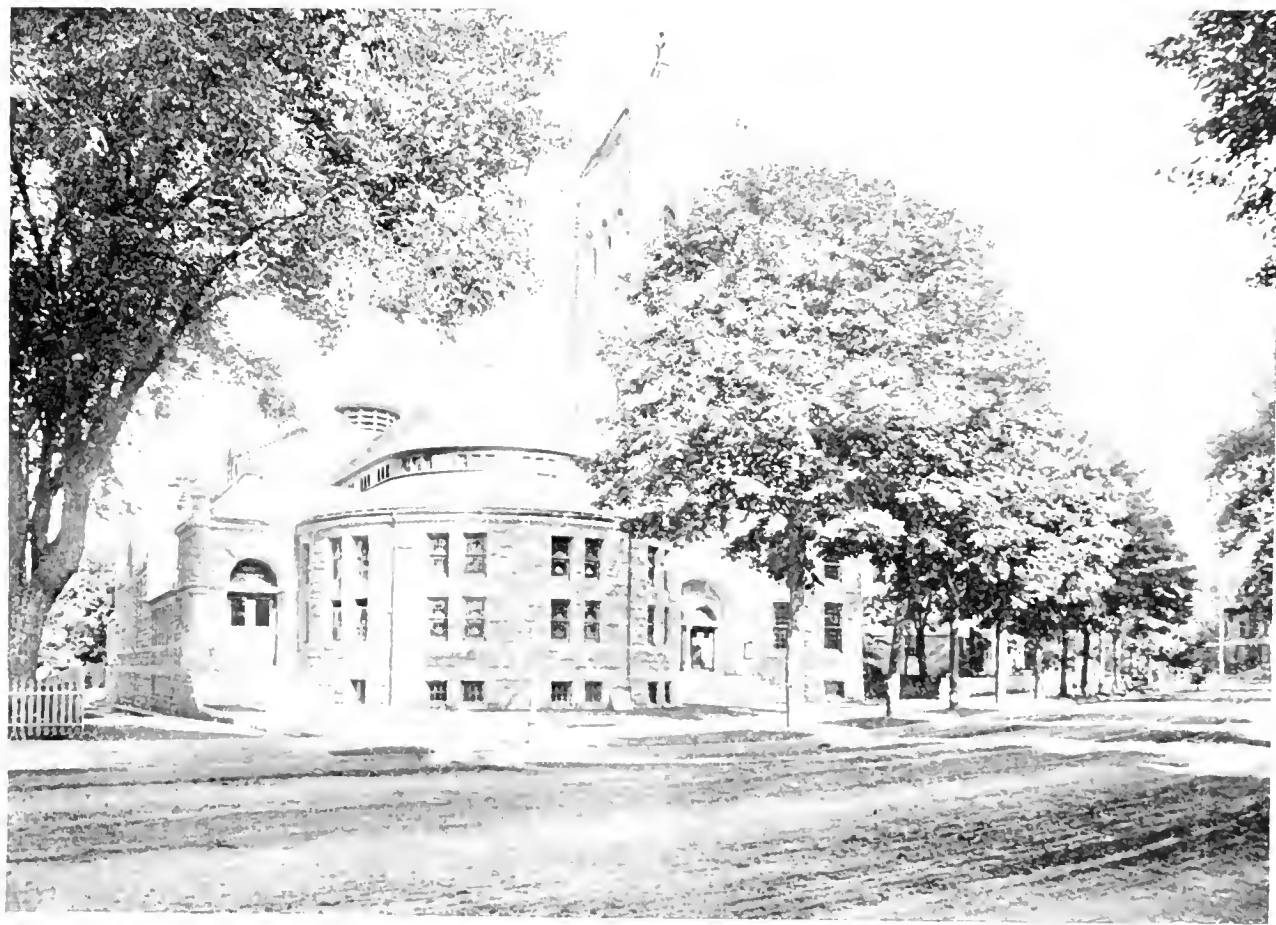
Y. M. C. A. RECEPTION HALL.



NEW BRITAIN HIGH SCHOOL



LAYING OF CORNER STONE, TRINITY M. E. CHURCH, APRIL 14, 1890.



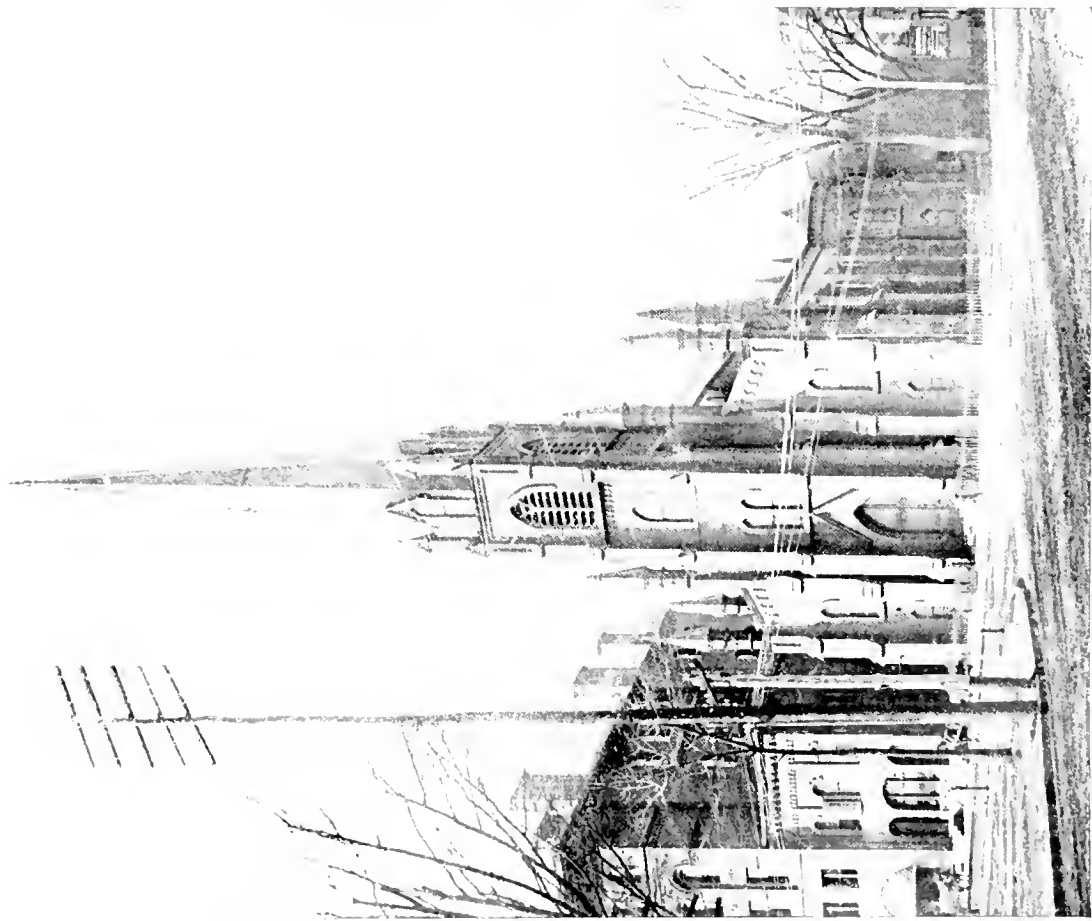
TRINITY M. L. CHURCH



ROCKWELL SCHOOL.



RESIDENCE OF C. S. LANDERS, EAST MAIN STREET



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.



SKINNER HOUSE, CORNER EAST AND SMALLY STREETS BURLINGTON



FALLS NEAR SHUTTLE MEADOW



RESIDENCE OF JOHN B. TALCOTT GRAFT HILL.

ERWIN WOMAN'S HOME.

THIS home, built in 1891 and '92, was established in accordance with the will of the late Cornelius B. Erwin, who bequeathed the sum of eighty thousand dollars, left under the control of the pastor and standing committee of the South Congregational Church, for the purpose of building a home for worthy but poor and indigent women of the town of New Britain.

The following extracts are taken from Mr. Erwin's will, "Although I have placed the management of said Woman's Home in the hands of said South Congregational Church, it is not my intention that the same shall be in any sense denominational or sectarian;" and "It being my object in establishing said home to aid the really worthy and deserving poor."

The building consists of a series of cottages with separate entrances, all under one continuous roof, and connected by broad corridors, to which all the tenements have direct access.

These tenements and apartments are leased, not for a longer period than one year, but any lease so given may from time to time be renewed for said term of one year or any shorter period.

The occupants pay a nominal rent towards payment of necessary insurance, repairs and taxes.

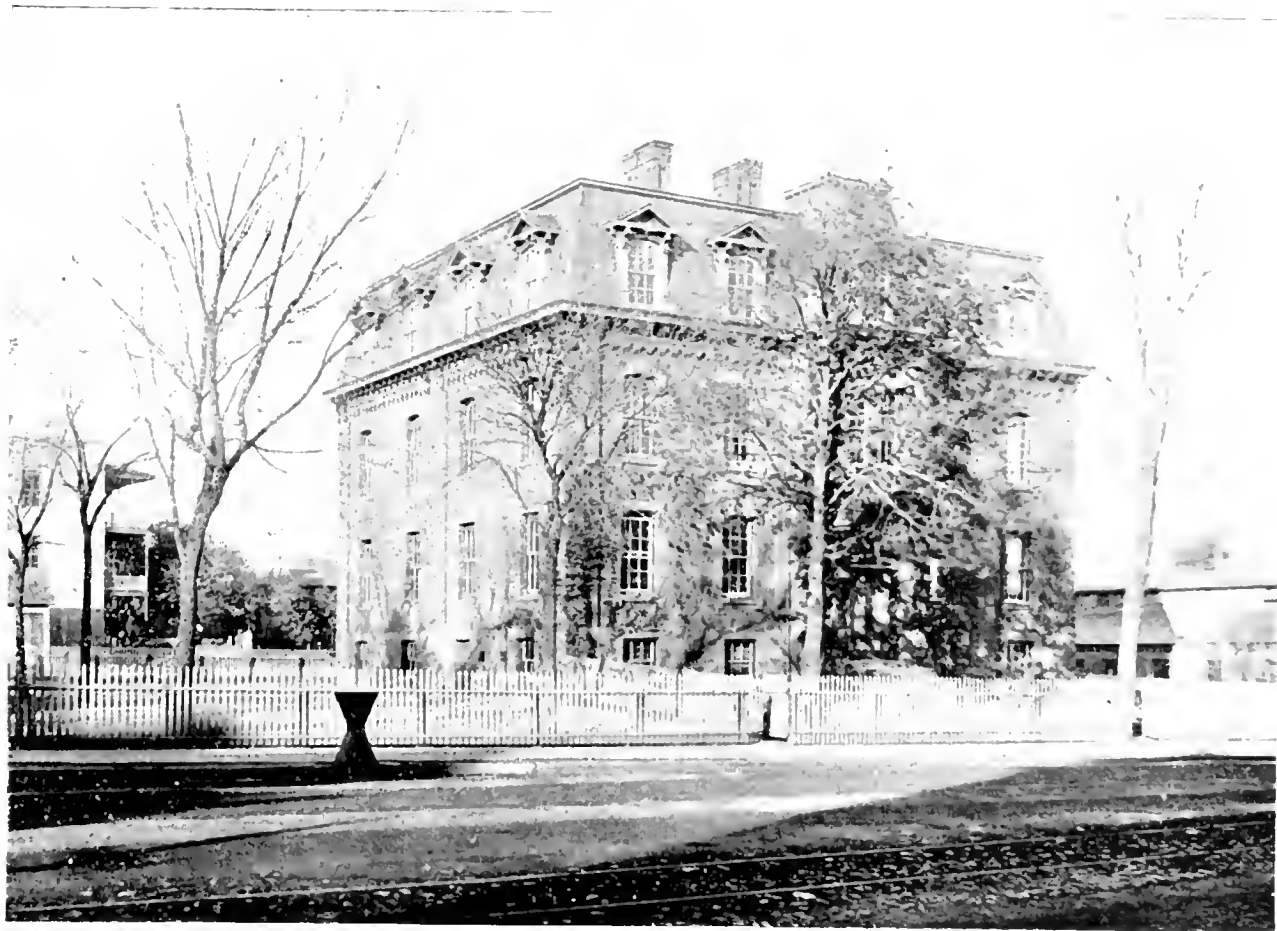
The apartments are now nearly all occupied and the ladies are much pleased with their home.



ERWIN WOMAN'S HOME



ON MAPLE STREET.



BURRITT SCHOOL.

SWEDISH BETHANY CHURCH





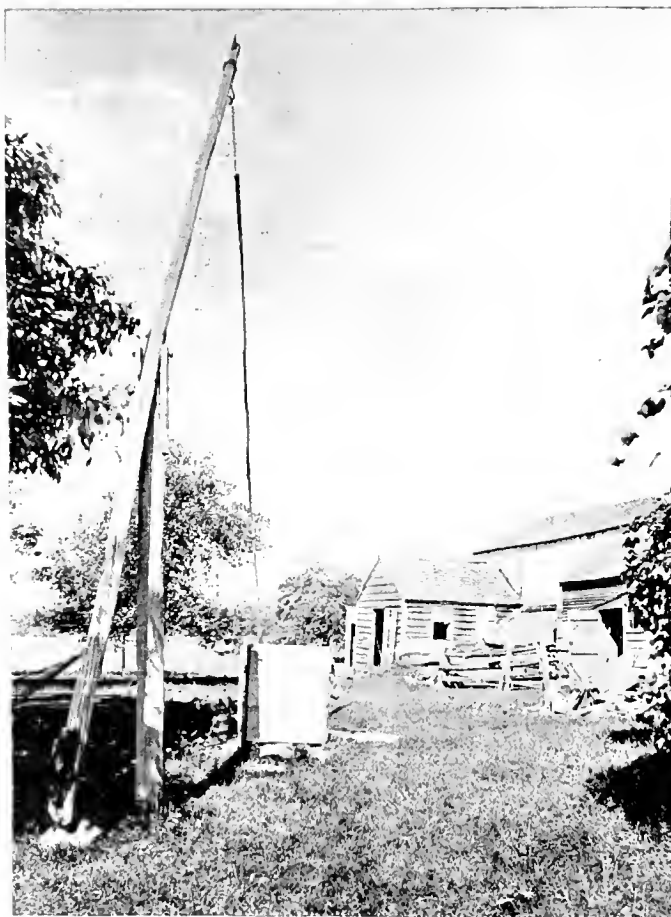
RESIDENCE OF JOHN B. SMITH, GRAND STREET.

SOUTH HIGH STREET





HILLSIDE PLACE.



THE OLD WELL.—CHRISTIAN LANE.

IN 1686-7 a settlement was begun by Richard Seymour and others on Christian Lane, a few rods south of the present line between New Britain and Berlin. They built a fort, or stockade, around the cabins for protection from the Indians.

In the center of the fort the well was dug, and so thoroughly constructed that it has been in use ever since, and still furnishes excellent water.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES H. MINOR, WEST MAIN STREET



GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH.



LEXINGTON STREET



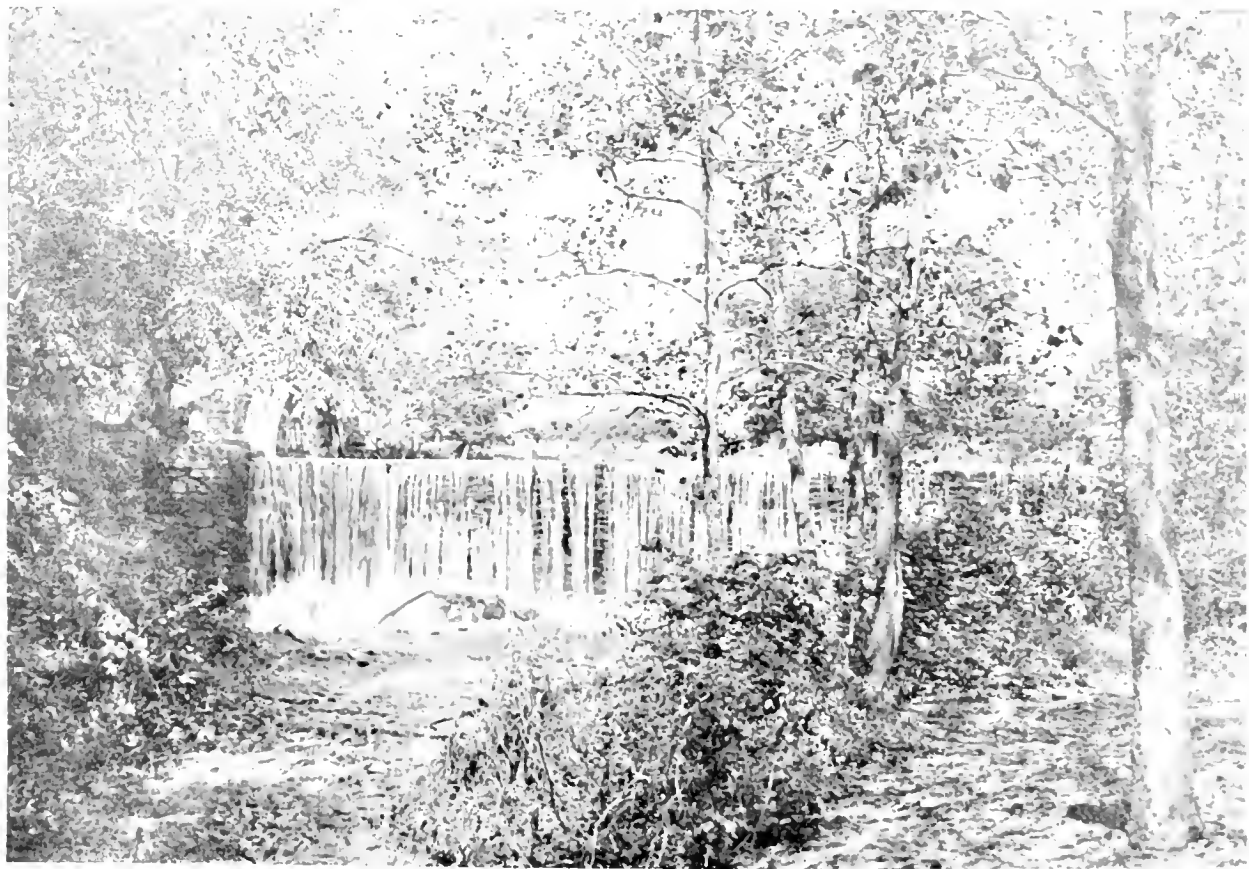
7. 10 A. M. FREIGHT.



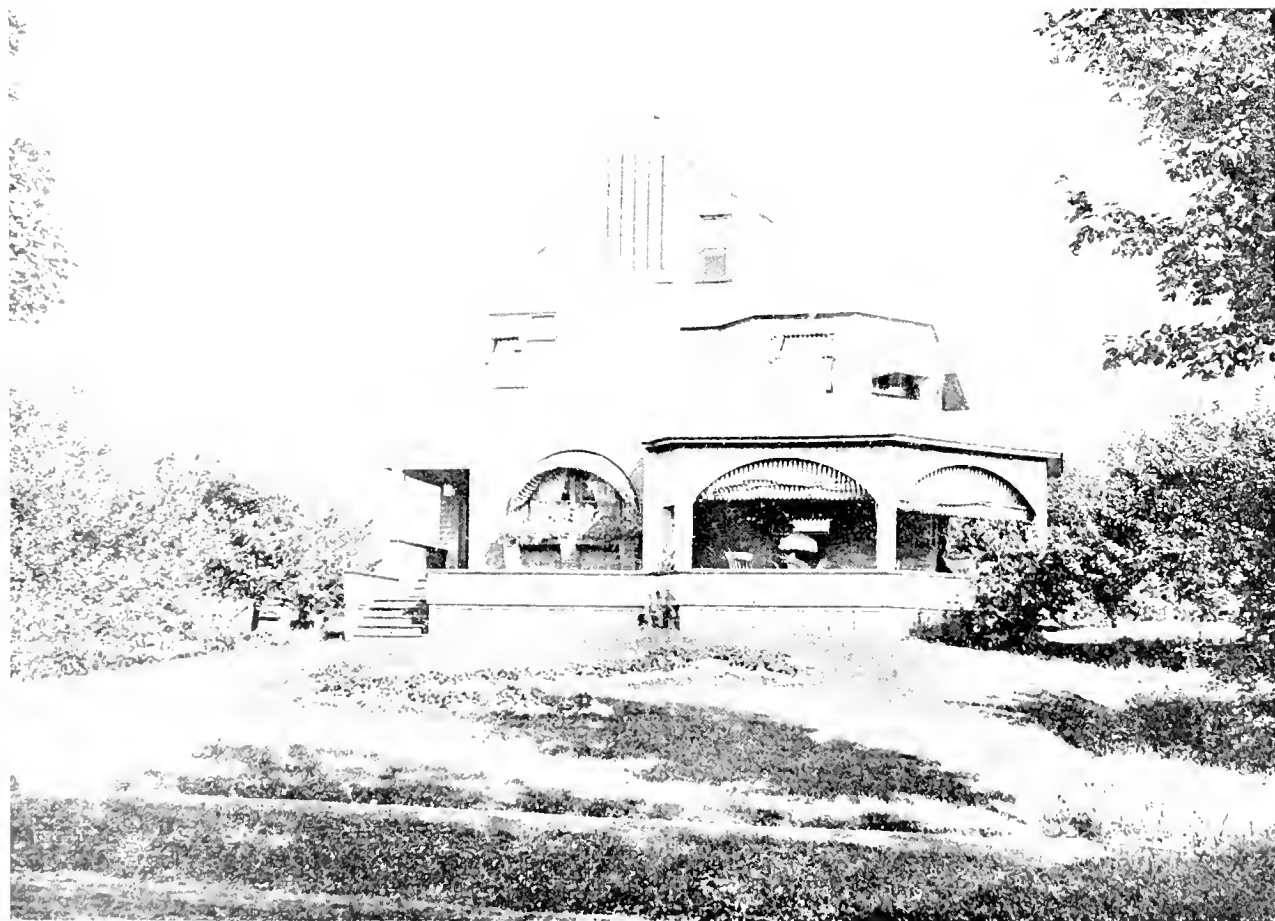
SMITH SCHOOL



"THE PRIDE OF HIGHVIEW," IMPORTED JERSEY, NO. 22,015.



FALLS RHODES POND



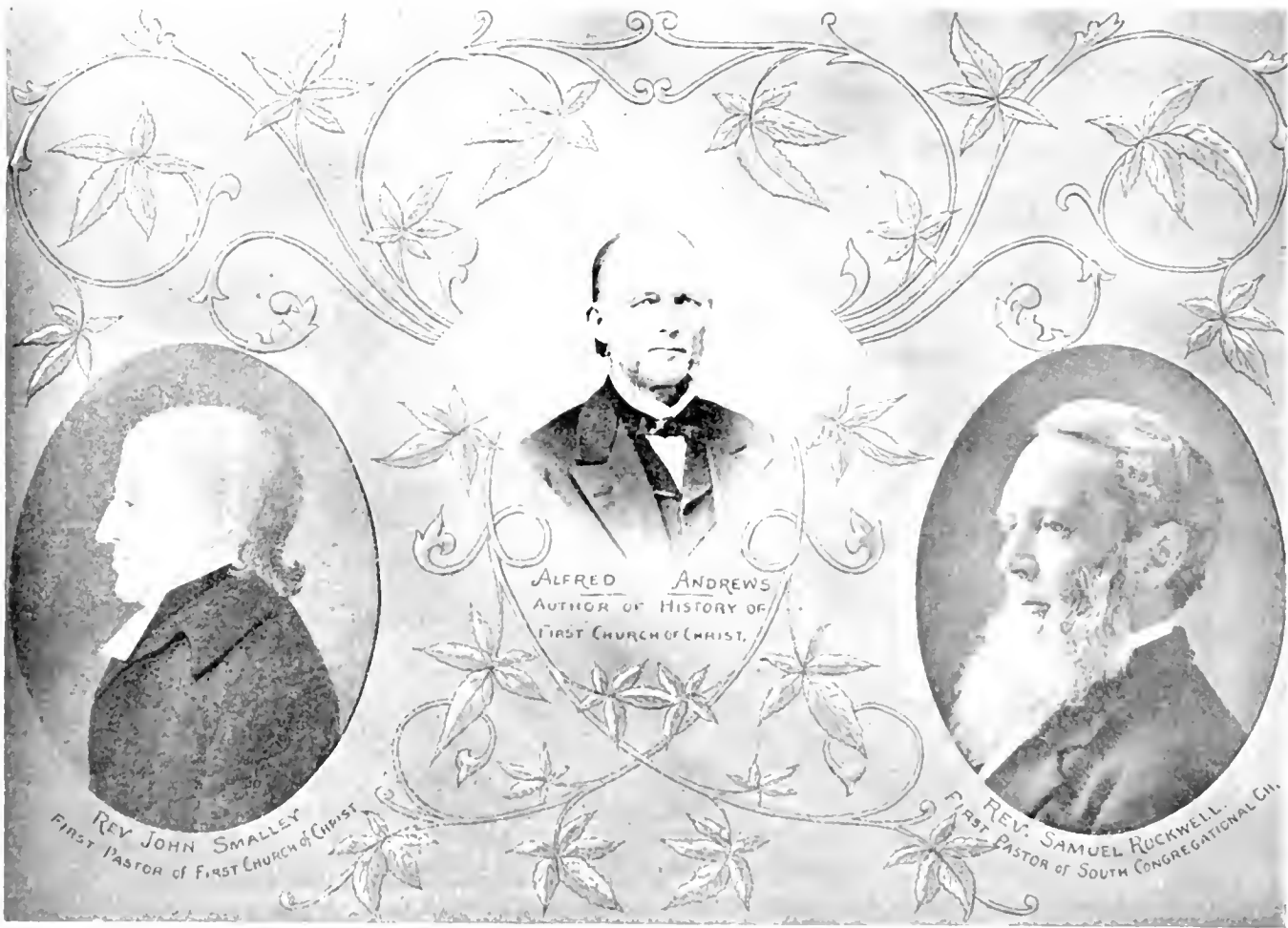
RESIDENCE OF G. S. BARKENTIN, LEXINGTON STREET.



ALL SOULS UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.



MORTON JUDD ELM. PLANTED IN 1822.



ALFRED ANDREWS
AUTHOR OF HISTORY OF
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST.

REV JOHN SMALLEY
FIRST PASTOR OF FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

REV. SAMUEL ROCKWELL.
FIRST PASTOR OF SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CH.



REV. JAMES STODDARD
 OF LATE RECTOR OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.
 NOW PRINCIPAL OF THE EPISCOPAL ACADEMY OF CONN. CHESHIRE, CT.



REV. I. R. STIDHAM
 PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.



REV. J. W. COOPER
 PASTOR OF SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.



Rev. J. HENRY
PASTOR OF FIRST CHURCH, N.H.



Rev. JOSEPH T. JOHNSON
TEACHER OF SABBATH SCHOOL



Rev. J. H. JOHNSON
PASTOR OF FIRST CHURCH, N.H.



REV. O. P. PISTOR.
PASTOR OF SWEDISH BAPTIST CH.



REV. THEO. GROSS.
PASTOR OF GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.



REV. O. P. PISTOR.
PASTOR OF GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH.



REV. E. G. HJERPE
PASTOR of SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCH

REV. HEZEKIAH DAVIS
PASTOR of PEOPLES CHURCH

REV. ALONZO CHASE
PASTOR of SOULS UNIVERSALIST CHURCH



PANTHER SWAMP CANAL.



SHUTTLE MEADOW

THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

IN 1840 an act was passed by the General Assembly of Connecticut, establishing a Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the instruction of the young in the schools of the state.

The trustees appointed to select a suitable place for its location decided upon New Britain, in consideration of the central position of the town in the state, and the offer of its citizens to provide a suitable building, apparatus, and library to the value of \$10,000 for the use of the institution. The school was located where the High School now is, the High, Grammar and Primary schools being on the floors below.

It remained here until 1884 under the charge of Principals Henry Barnard, John D. Philbrick, David N. Camp, Col. Homer B. Sprague, and L. N. Carlton. About 1880 the growth of the school made it necessary that steps be taken toward securing a new building.

The Legislature in 1881, appropriated \$75,000 for a new building to be erected in New Britain if that town would appropriate \$25,000 more.

This was promptly done, and the land of the present fine location was purchased and the building begun. It was opened and occupied in the autumn of 1883.

The building contains the main hall, laboratory, offices, a library of 5,000 volumes for the students' use, drawing, modeling and cooking rooms. The basement is used for the kindergarten. More room being needed, an annex was built in 1890, in which are four model school rooms, the gymnasium and workshop.

Manual and physical training hold an important part in the course. In the law passed in 1849, provision was made for model and practice schools, which were organized and carried on in connection with the schools of New Britain for several years.

During the last few years model schools have been established in New Britain and other places where the students can observe the methods of teaching, and practice the same under the supervision of the regular teachers.

In this manner observation and practice are made the basis of all theoretical instruction, for it is of the first importance that students learn, by long practice, to prepare lessons that are to be given to others.

The aim of this is to prevent untrained youth from entering public schools to get training, or so-called experience, at the expense of children. The Kindergarten started in 1884 in the Normal has shown its value and efficiency from the fact that there are now thirty-one in the state; more in proportion to the number of children than in any state in the Union.

The successful operation of the methods employed is due, in a great measure, to the untiring energy and zeal of the Principal, Prof. C. F. Carroll, and Secretary C. D. Hine, of the State Board of Education. There are at present over four hundred pupils connected with the school. The Normal School of to day is meeting the demands of the most popular ideas of modern education, and the supply of trained teachers is not equal to the demand.



STATE NORMAL SCHOOL



CEDAR STREET.



RESIDENCE OF HENRY E. RUSSELL, JR. THE GROVE.



RESIDENCE OF THEODORE E. SMITH, LAKE STREET.



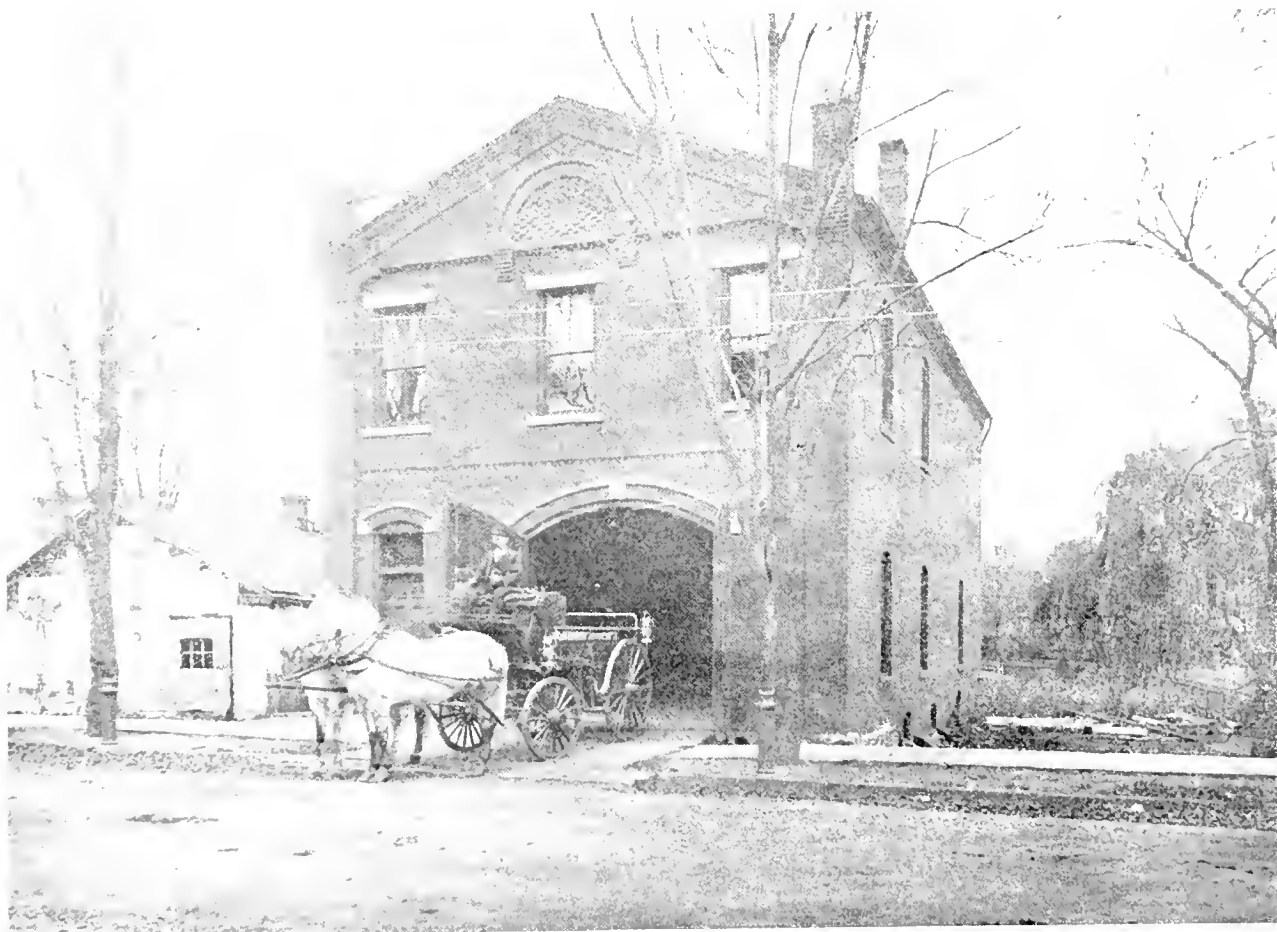
ON VINE STREET.



PEOPLE'S CHURCH OF CHRIST.



NORTH END SCHOOL



ENGINE CO. NO. 2.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

At a General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, holden at Hartford on the first Wednesday of May, 1833, it was Resolved by this Assembly, that Wm. B. Stanley, Geo. W. Southworth and Lorenzo P. Lee, of the village of New Britain in the town of Berlin, and county of Hartford, be, and they are hereby authorized to meet at the dwelling house of Ralph Wells in said village, on the 22d day of June, 1833, then and there to enlist a Fire Company which shall be called The New Britain Fire Engine Company, and shall consist of not more than twenty-four persons, eighteen of whom only may be taken from the ranks of the militia of the age of 21 years and over, and all shall be residents of said Berlin, and within the distance of three-quarters of a mile from the Presbyterian Meeting House in said New Britain Village; with power to fill all vacancies that may happen by voluntary enlistment, which Company when so enlisted, shall have power to appoint the necessary officers for said Company, with power of making by laws not inconsistent with the laws of this State or of the United States, and to enforce the same by penalties not exceeding Five Dollars for any one offence; to impose taxes on themselves, and do all other acts and things which a corporation may of right do, and to be entitled to all rights, powers, and privileges which are granted to Fire Engine Companies in this State. *Provided*, that this grant shall be subject to be altered, amended, or repealed at the pleasure of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to this grant, The New Britain Fire Engine Company was formed and a constitution, providing for the number and kind of officers and defining their duties and the duties of the members, was adopted.

Among the early members we find the names of Theo. C. Bronson, Charles A. Warner, Marcellus Clark, Henry Stanley, William Bingham, James Stanley, Henry E. Russell, Geo. M. Landers, William A. Churchill, Curtis Whaples, Hosmer Parsons, Joshua R. King, Peter B. Post, James E. Lewis, and T. W. Stanley. Many of these were from time to time officers of the Company, serving as foremen, assistants, secretaries, and stewards. The constitution defined the position of all the members as "being on the drag rope in going to or returning from a fire, the foreman only excepted." The hand engine then in use, drew the water with the short hose from a convenient well or stream.

Certain days in the year were appointed for washing the engine, and at the annual meetings held in January, after the election of officers, the minutes record, "That the stewards order oysters for the company present, to be paid for from the funds of the Company."

Absentees from meetings or fires were fined, unless they gave sufficient excuse. In 1840 a new engine and 500 feet of hose was purchased.

Since then numerous changes have been made as needed, so that from the volunteer companies which did such good service for nearly forty years, the city has advanced to the present efficient paid department of seventy-five men with three steam fire-engines, three hose wagons, one hook and ladder truck, and 6,450 feet of hose.

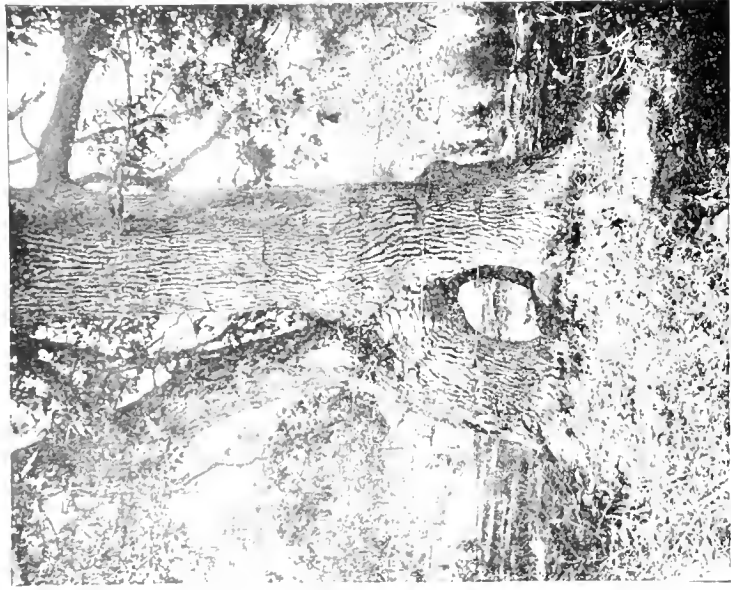
With these equipments and the telegraph fire alarm, the city is as well provided with means for fire fighting as any place of its size in the state.



ENGINE CO. NO. 3



SHIPMAN SCHOOL





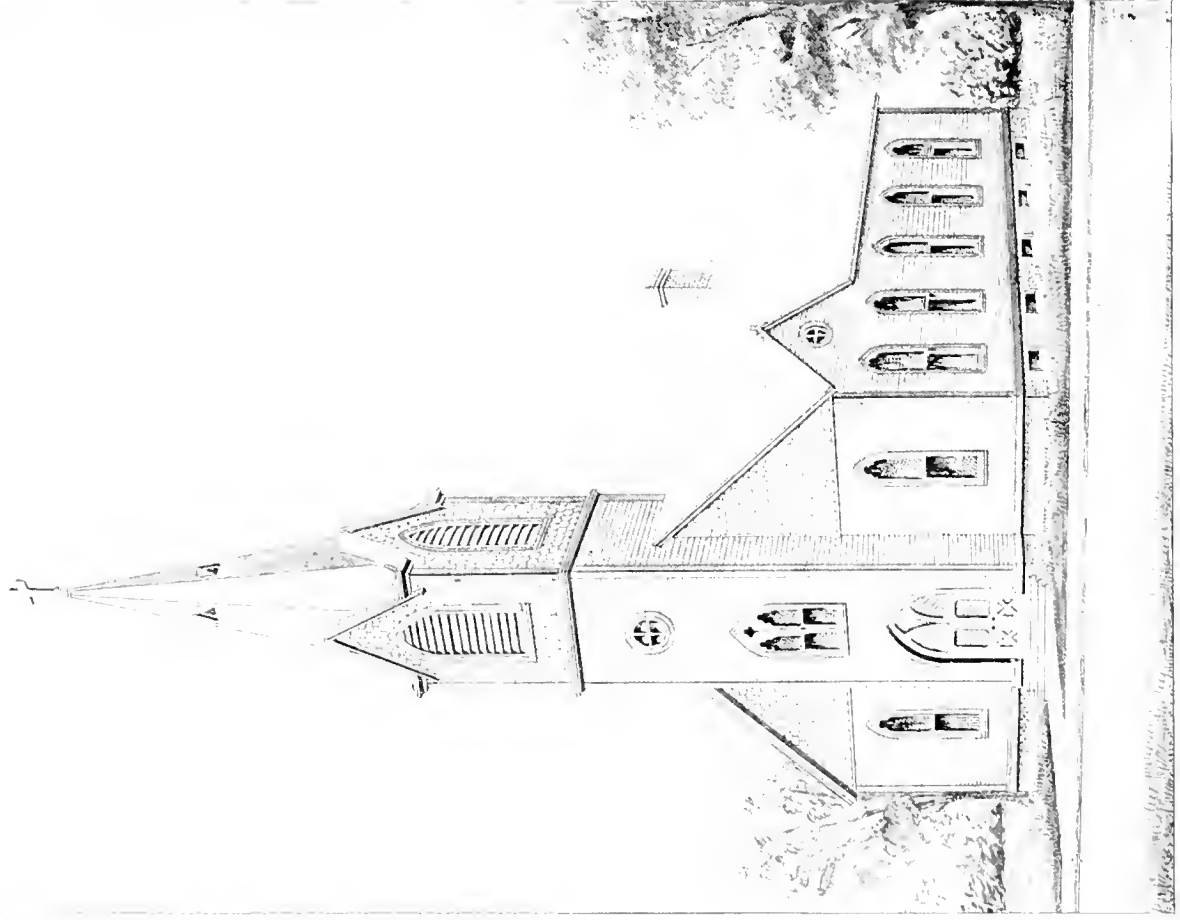
PIPER'S BROOK.



LINCOLN SCHOOL.



RESIDENCE OF F. L. HUNGERFORD.



ST. JOHN'S GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH



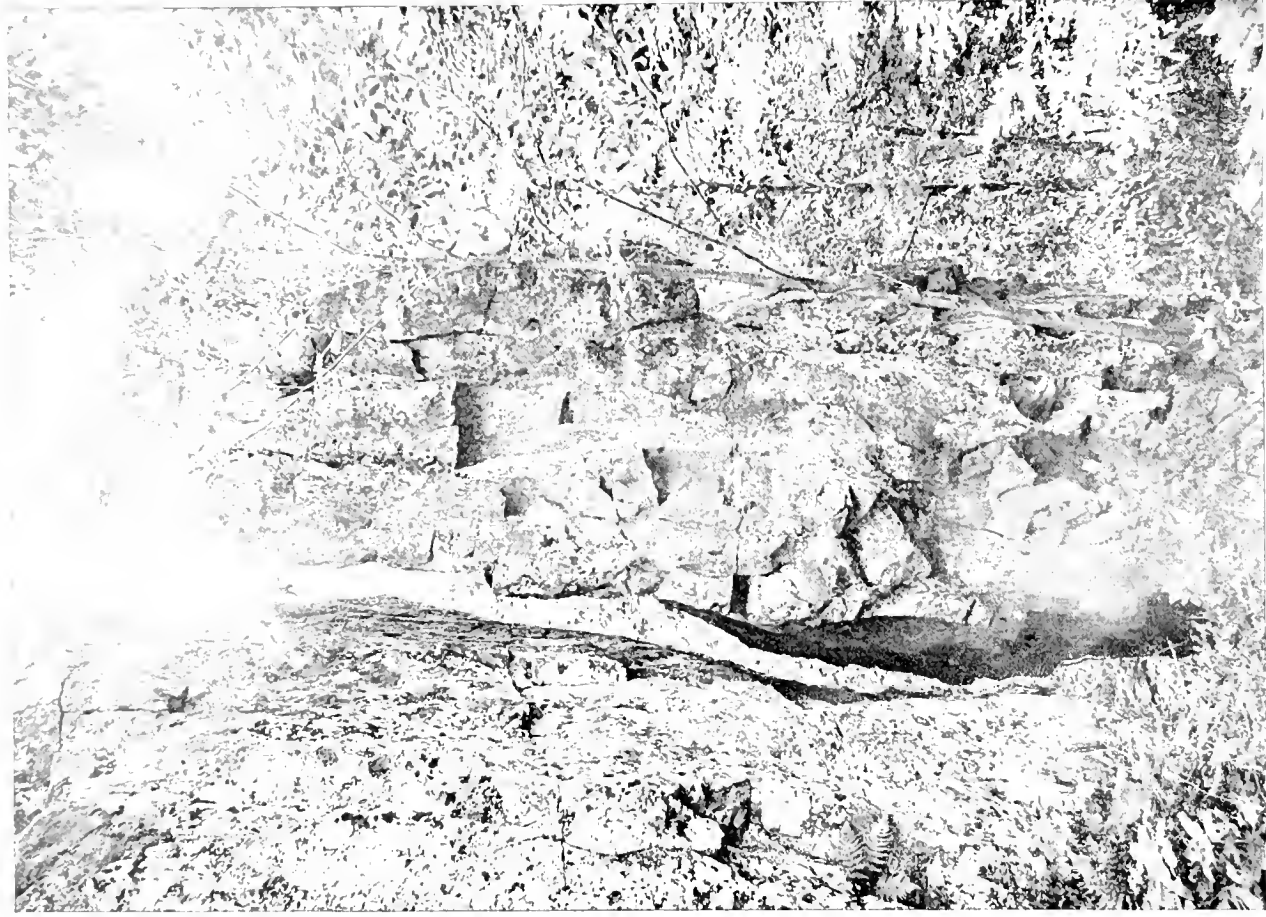
ON FAIRVIEW AND PARK STREETS.



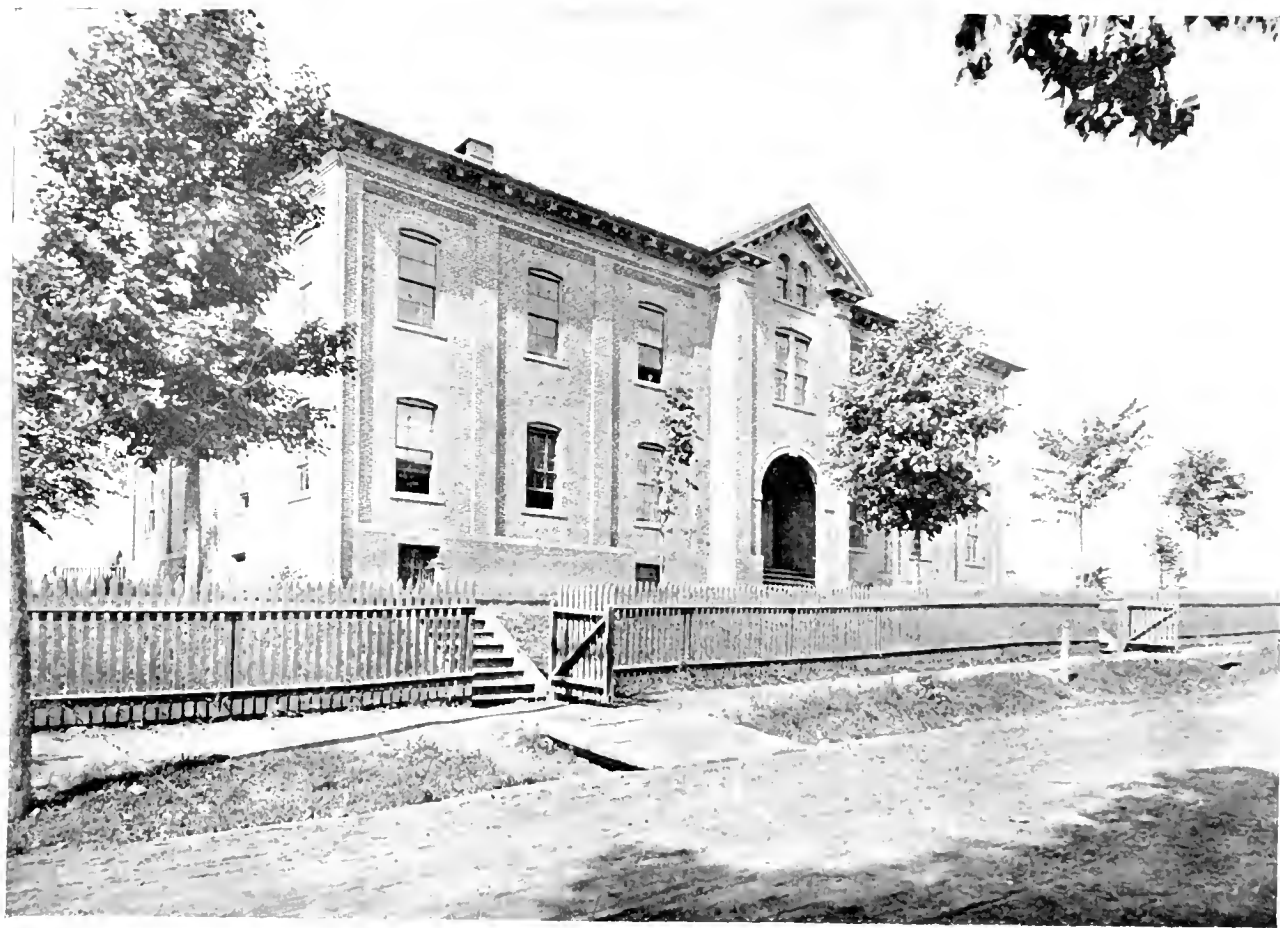
NATURAL BRIDGE, SHUTTLE MEADOW



HANGING BOULDER, SHUTTLE MEADOW.



MONTMENT ROCK, PANTHER SWAMP.



BARTLETT SCHOOL.



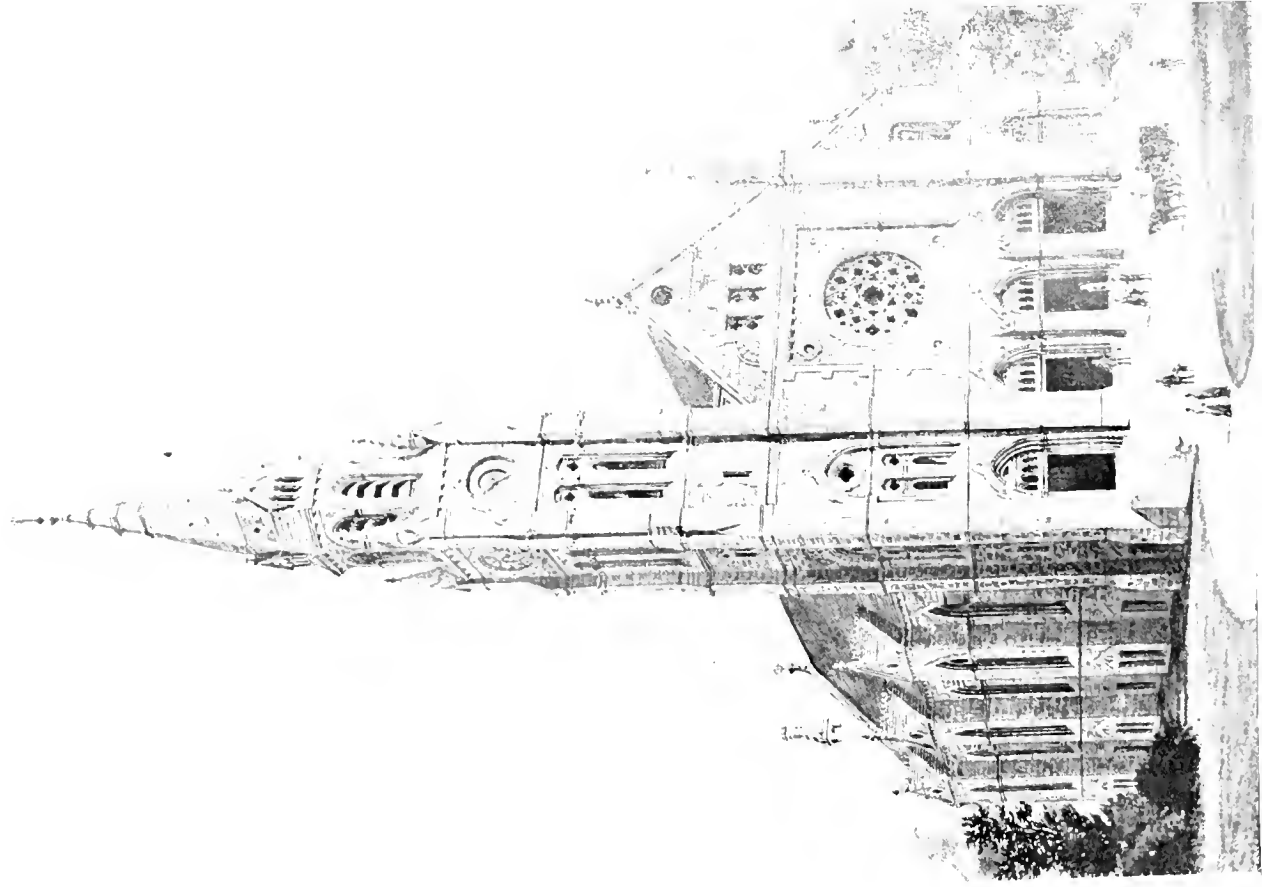
ST. MARY'S R. C. CHURCH AND SCHOOL, MYRTLE STREET.

ST. MARY'S PARISH.

IT has been less than forty years since the first church of St. Mary's Parish, in New Britain, was dedicated. At that time, 1853, there were probably less than 300 connected with the parish. But fifty years ago, when Father Brady, of Hartford, said the first mass here, in 1812, in a house which stood where Russell & Erwin's screw factory now is, there were less than twenty-five persons present. Father Brady's parish then extended south to Middletown, and west to the New York State line. In 1848 there were twenty-five Catholic families in New Britain, which were under the charge of Rev. Luke Daly, whose parish extended northwest, including New Hartford and Rainbow, and included Berlin and Kensington on the south. In 1849 Father Daly took up his residence here and in 1850 began the building of a church on Myrtle street, in which the first mass was said on Annunciation Day, 1851, with about 250 persons present. In 1853 the edifice was dedicated by Bishop O'Reilly, and the growing parish, needing still further accommodations, a transept, a chancel and a sacristy were added later.

Father Daly carried on the parish work very successfully, having built the church, with the additions, the parish school and convent, during his pastorate. He was very popular with all, not only with his own people, but with the citizens of the place who differed from him in faith. His people were ever ready to help him in his work and greatly lamented his death, which occurred in 1878. Rev. Hugh Connolly, D.D., was appointed his successor and carried on the work begun by Father Daly with equal success. During his pastorate St. Thomas' Convent, one of the largest in the state, was completed and occupied by the Sisters of Mercy, the church property was cleared of debt, and the lot on Main street for the new church purchased. Dr. Connolly was appreciated by all for his scholarly attainments and genial manners. He died in 1883 and was succeeded by Rev. Father Tierney. Father Tierney has most ably carried on the work begun by his predecessors. The new church in process of construction has nearly all of the exterior finished, and work on the interior is being carried forward. The corner stone of this church was laid on the 27th of June, 1886.

There are at present about 7,000 souls connected with the parish exclusive of the German Catholics now connected with St. Peter's church. In the Parochial schools are about 1,250 children, and in the Convent twenty-two Sisters of Mercy, nineteen of whom are active teachers in the schools. The assistant pastors of the church have been Rev. H. J. Lynch, Rev. Thos. Mullen, Rev. Wm. Hart, Rev. Thos. Smith, Rev. John H. Duggan, Rev. P. H. Finnegan, Rev. John C. Donahoe, Rev. J. Larkin, Rev. M. McKeon, Rev. T. J. Hannoyan, Rev. R. C. O'Gagan, Rev. J. H. Dolan, Rev. N. F. X. Schneider, Rev. J. W. Lancaster, and the present assistants, Rev. J. T. A. McMahon, Rev. Wm. H. Gibbons, and Rev. Wm. J. McGurk.



ST. MARY'S R. C. CHURCH



ST. THOMAS CONVENT



PASTORS OF ST MARY'S R.C. CHURCH.



REV. N. F. X. SCHNEIDER
PASTOR OF ST. PETERS GERMAN R.C. CHURCH



REV. J. T. A. MCMAHON
ASSISTANT PASTOR
OF ST. MARY'S



REV. W. J. P. MCMAHON
ASSISTANT PASTOR OF ST. MARY'S





RESIDENCE OF A. J. SLOPER, GROVE HILL.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. J. H. SMITH, SOUTH MAIN STREET

NEW BRITAIN INSTITUTE.

THE New Britain Institute was established in 1853, to provide a public library and reading room, and to secure courses of lectures. Less than a thousand dollars was raised by subscription and by fees of members, and a few hundred books were bought and the library was opened the same year, in Miller's building. A reading room was also furnished with newspapers and other periodicals and opened to the public. At first there was a fee for the use of the library or for the privilege of using the reading room. But for many years the reading room has been entirely free, and also the library when used at the rooms. Courses of lectures were secured and opened to the public on the payment of a small fee. For a few years there have been no lectures, but the library has been largely increased by the addition of new books, and its influence has been extended. The reading room is well supplied with the best periodicals and is meeting the needs of the community in providing so large an amount of reading entirely free.

The New Britain Institute was incorporated by the General Assembly in 1858. The incorporators were David N. Camp, C. B. Erwin, F. T. Stanley, G. M. Landers, Oliver Stanley, Lucius Woodruff, T. W. Stanley, John B. Talcott, W. S. Churchill and W. B. Smythe.

In 1872 it received a legacy of \$10,000 from the estate of Lucius Woodruff, and it has more recently received about \$100,000, from the estate of the late Cornelius B. Erwin. When Hart's Block was erected rooms were prepared for it which it occupied for more than twenty years. For the last few years its rooms have been in the Russwin Building, where its library room and reading room have been much enlarged, and a large number of new books and periodicals have been added to its previous lists. One department of the library is exclusively for reference, and the books are not taken from the building, but can be used freely in the rooms; the books in the circulating department can be taken home for reading.

The Institution is under the direction of a board of managers, one third of whom are elected annually for three years. John B. Talcott is president, W. F. Walker, secretary, and A. J. Sloper, treasurer.



READING ROOM NEW BRITAIN INSTITUTE



BRIDGE, IN BERLIN



CAMP STREET, NORTH END



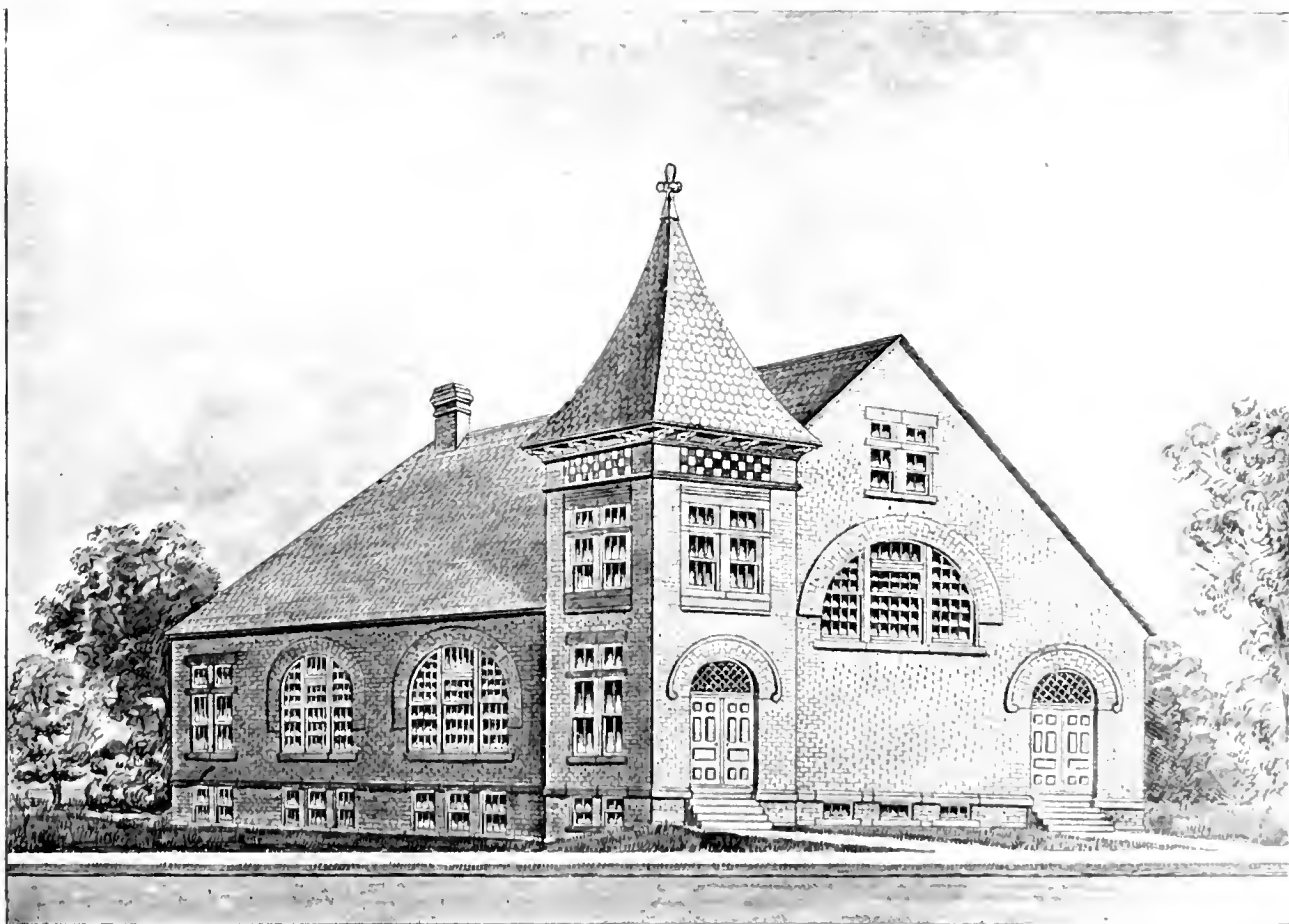
RESIDENCES OF F. N. STANLEY AND MISS KATH A. STANLEY



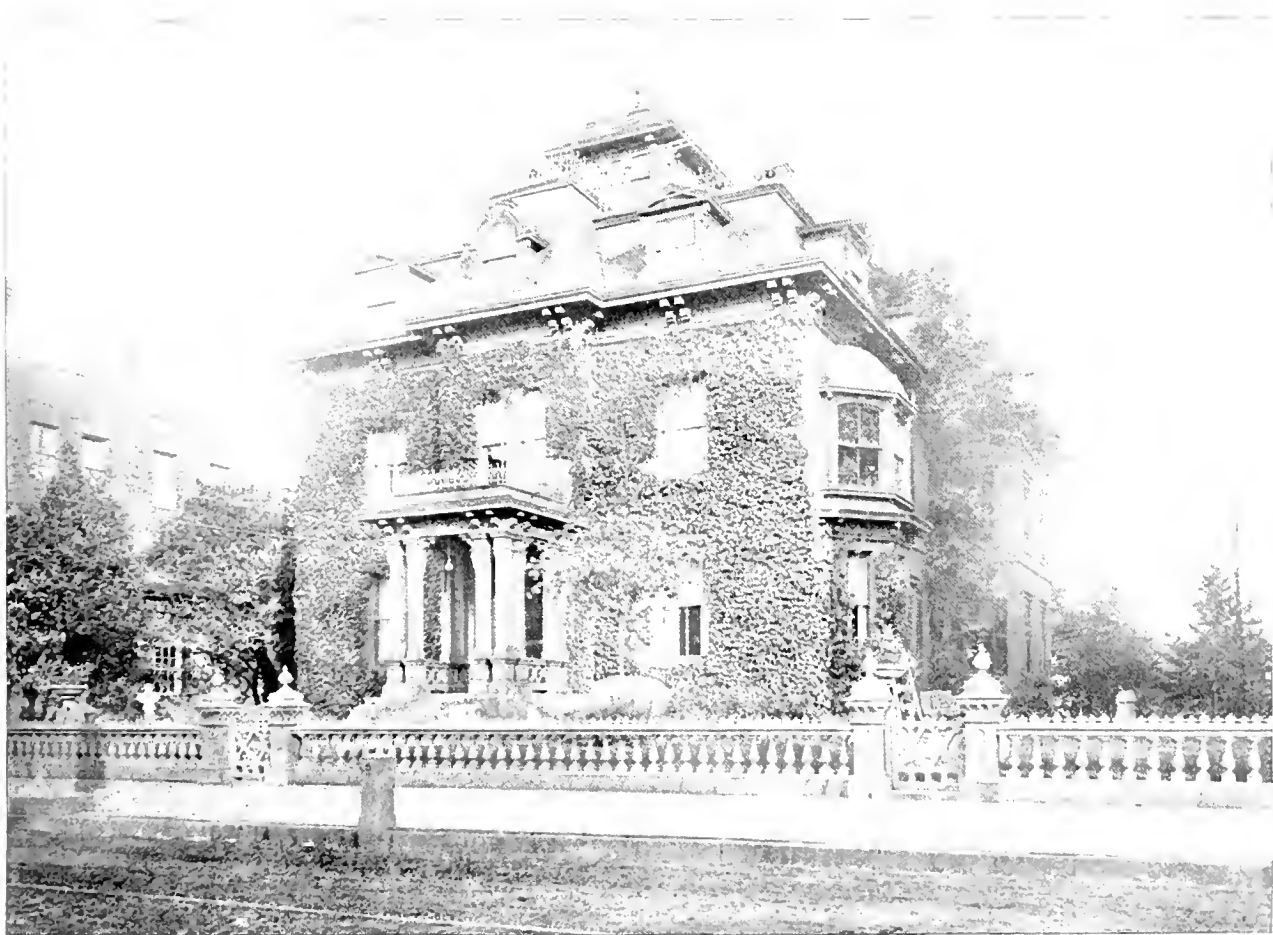
PARSONAGE OF SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



PARSONAGE OF FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.



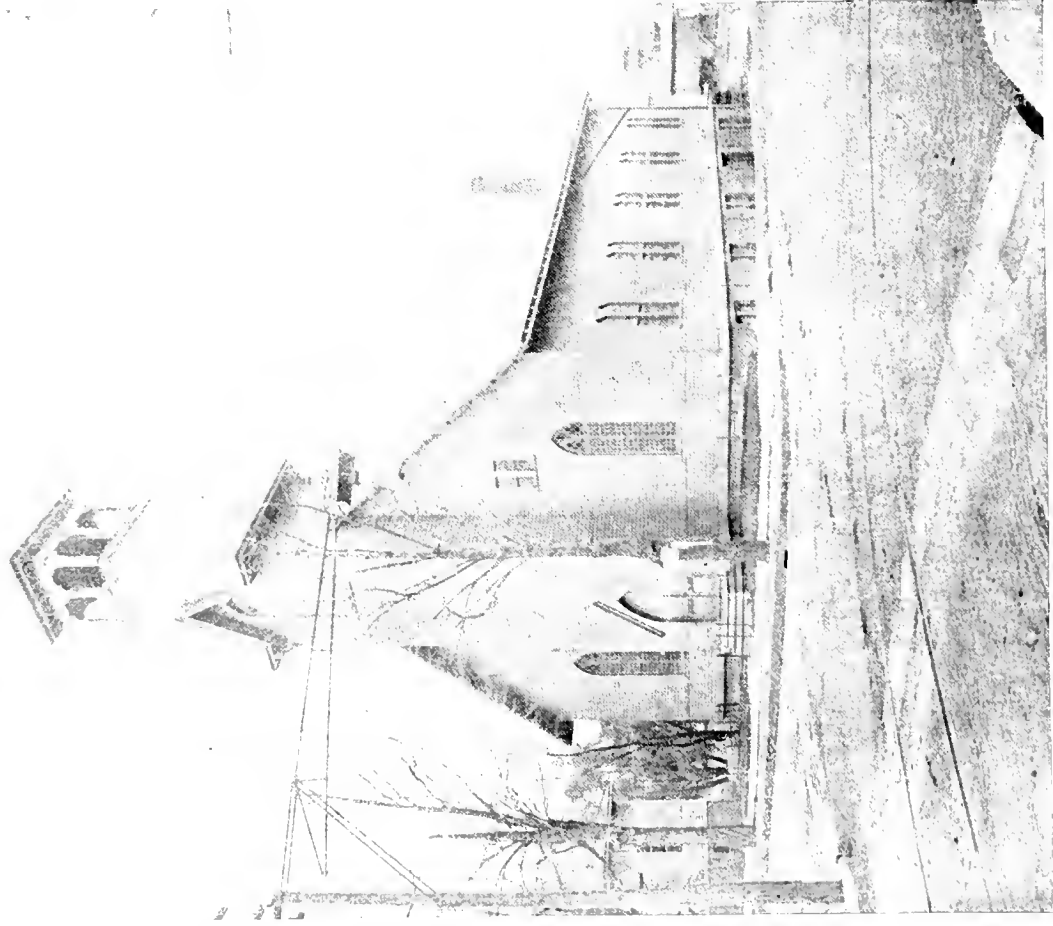
SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCH



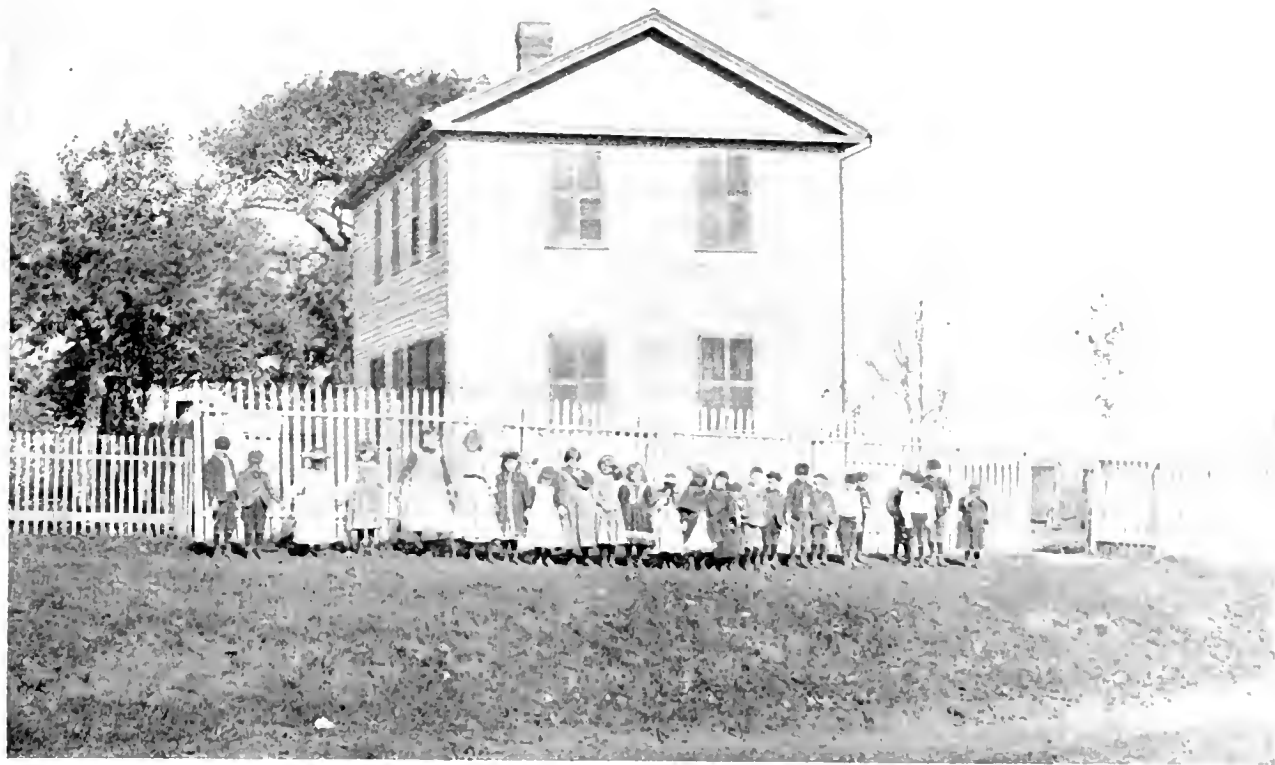
RESIDENCE OF L. F. JUDD, MAIN STREET.



RESIDENCE OF H. C. NOBLE, EAST MAIN STREET



SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH



OSGOOD HILL SCHOOL.

THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

IN the year 1800, Joseph Shipman and James North, having learned the brass business, and worked at it together for some time making bells, went into business, each for himself. The capital of Shipman consisted of fifty dollars, loaned him by Dr. Smalley. They were the first to make articles of metal, except what had been done in the blacksmith shops and in the tinware line, in New Britain. Seth J. North had learned the blacksmith trade, then went into the shop of his brother James, and upon the removal of the latter from town, succeeded to the business.

These shops were increased in size and were the principal manufactories of brass goods in the country. Mr. North and Mr. Shipman used to take their goods to New York or Boston, at first on horseback, then by team, and return with raw material. In 1812, another business, that of making plated articles, such as buckles, was started on or near the present site of The North & Judd Mfg. Co. Mr. Seth J. North and Alvin North were interested in this with Mr. H. C. Whipple, the firm being North & Whipple.

There were also a number of small shops in operation at one time and another, making a variety of articles, but those of S. J. North, Jos. Shipman, and North & Whipple were the principal ones, until after 1830. About this time New Britain began to be known as a manufacturing place. A little before this, horse-power was first used in a shop built by S. J. North, Wm. H. Smith and Henry Stanley, and in 1832 a steam engine was used by F. T. Stanley, who, in company with others, manufactured builders' hardware. The coal for its use was cutted from the docks in Middletown or Hartford.

The first brick factory in New Britain was built by Seth J. North, John Stanley and Henry Stanley, about 1832, and known as the North & Stanley factory, later as Sargent's building. A canal was built to take the water from the brook then crossing Main and Elm streets, and a water power secured.

It was also about 1830 that the first hook and eye machine was made, which was afterward much improved, and the making of these articles became quite an important industry.

The first building erected that is connected with any of the factories of the present time was built by Stanley, Woodruff & Co., in 1835, and occupied later by the Russell & Erwin Manufacturing Co. The foundations of this business were laid in 1839, when Henry E. Russell and Cornelius B. Erwin became the active partners.

In 1842 F. T. Stanley commenced the manufacture of wrought bolts and hinges, in what was recently known as the tack shop. This was the beginning of the Stanley Works. In the same year Geo. M. Landers began the manufacture of house furnishing hardware on East Main street, from which business the present firm of Landers, Pray & Clark, with its various lines of goods, is the outcome.

The New Britain Knitting Co. was organized in 1847 by Seth J. North, Henry Stanley, and O. H. Seymour, and the knit goods were made in the North & Stanley factory.

The next year Philip Corbin and others commenced the manufacture of small metal articles on South Stanley street, and afterward removed to Park street and became the firm of P. & F. Corbin.

In 1853 W. L. Humason founded the Humason & Beckley Mfg. Co., and that same year the manufacture of levels was begun on Elm street by Thos. S. Hall and Frederick Knapp. The level business was later joined to the rule business of Augustus Stanley, T. W. Stanley and Thos. Conklin, founded in 1854, and with other business combined with it, has become The Stanley Rule and Level Co.

The largest of the more recently built factories is the American Hosiery Co., organized in 1868.

Thus from small beginnings have sprung the present varied manufacturing industries of New Britain, with their many millions of invested capital and thousands of employees.

By her manufactures is she known. They have made her what she is, and given her a reputation second to none in the country.



JOSEPH SHIPMAN.



HENRY STANLEY.



G. J. NORTH.



I. W. STANLEY.



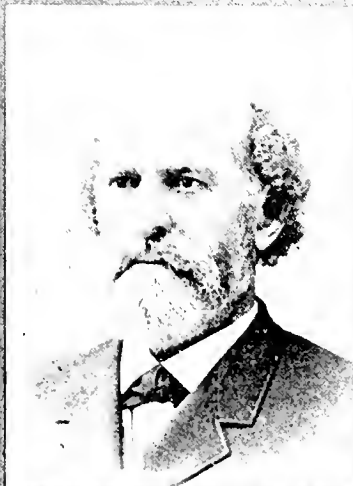
W. H. SMITH.



C. B. ERWIN.



G. M. LANDERS.



PHILIP CORBIN.



L. F. JUDD.



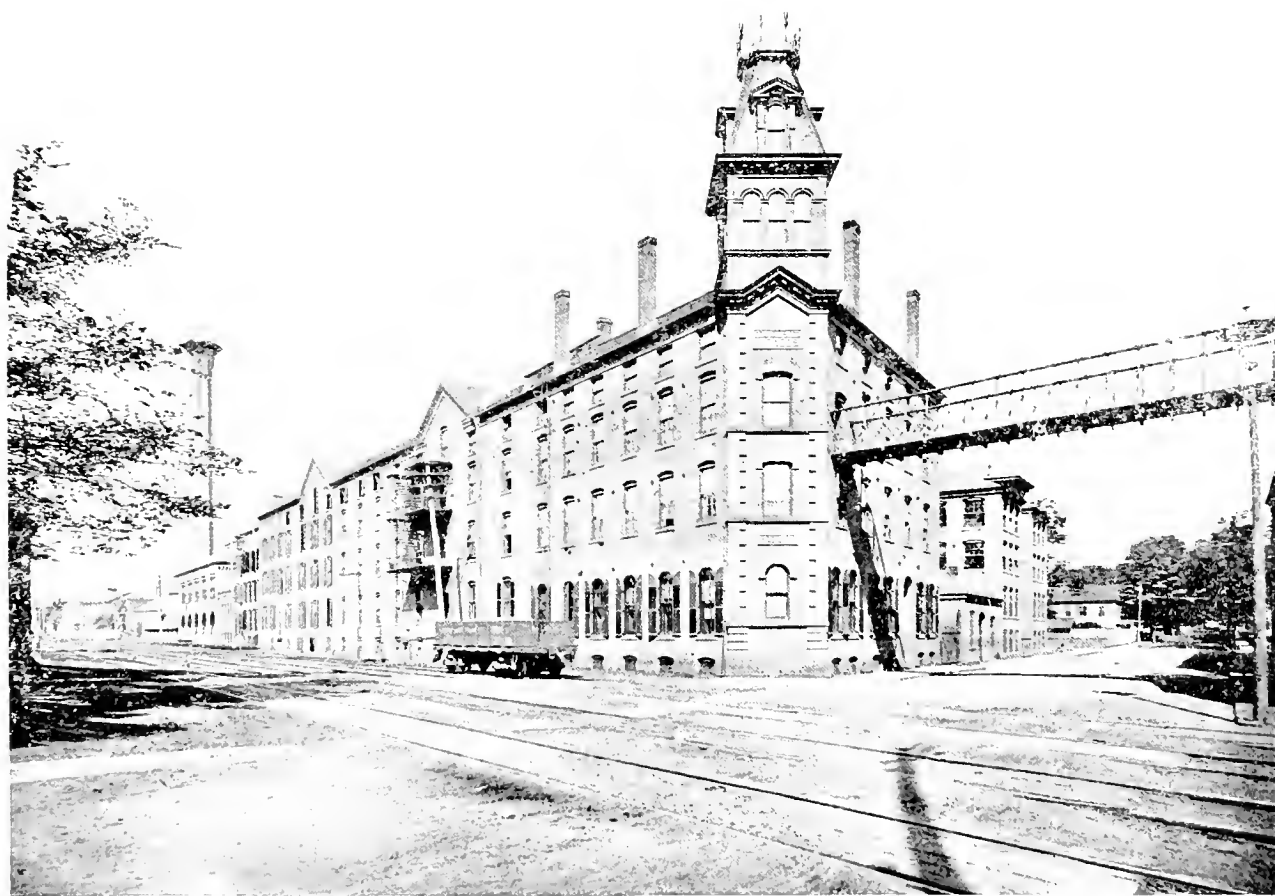
WILLIAM H. HART.



CHARLES S. LANDERS.



HENRY E. RUSSELL JR.



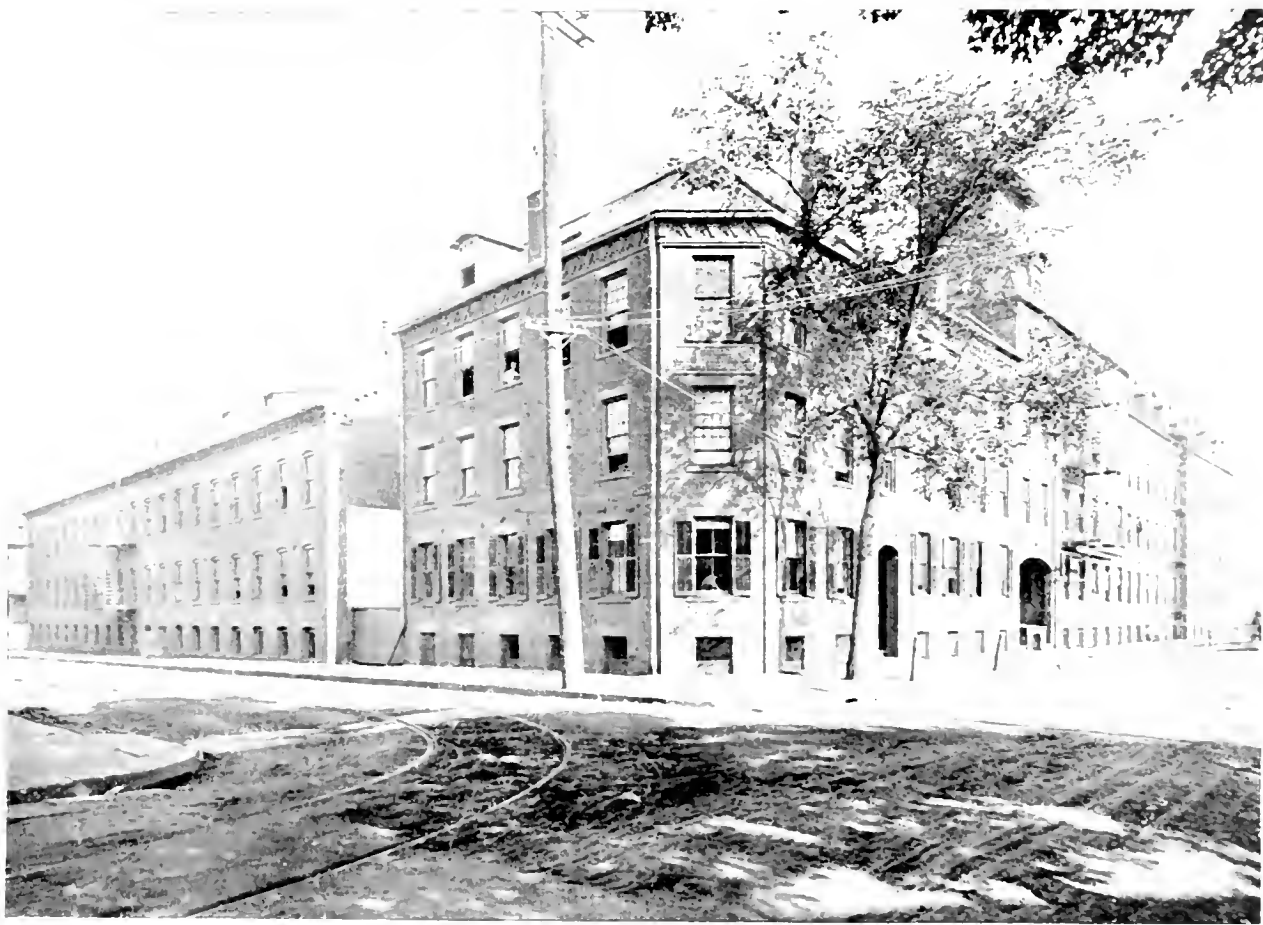
RUSSELL & ERWIN MANUFACTURING CO.



RUSSELL & ERWIN MANUFACTURING CO.'S SCREW SHOP



THE STANLEY WORKS.



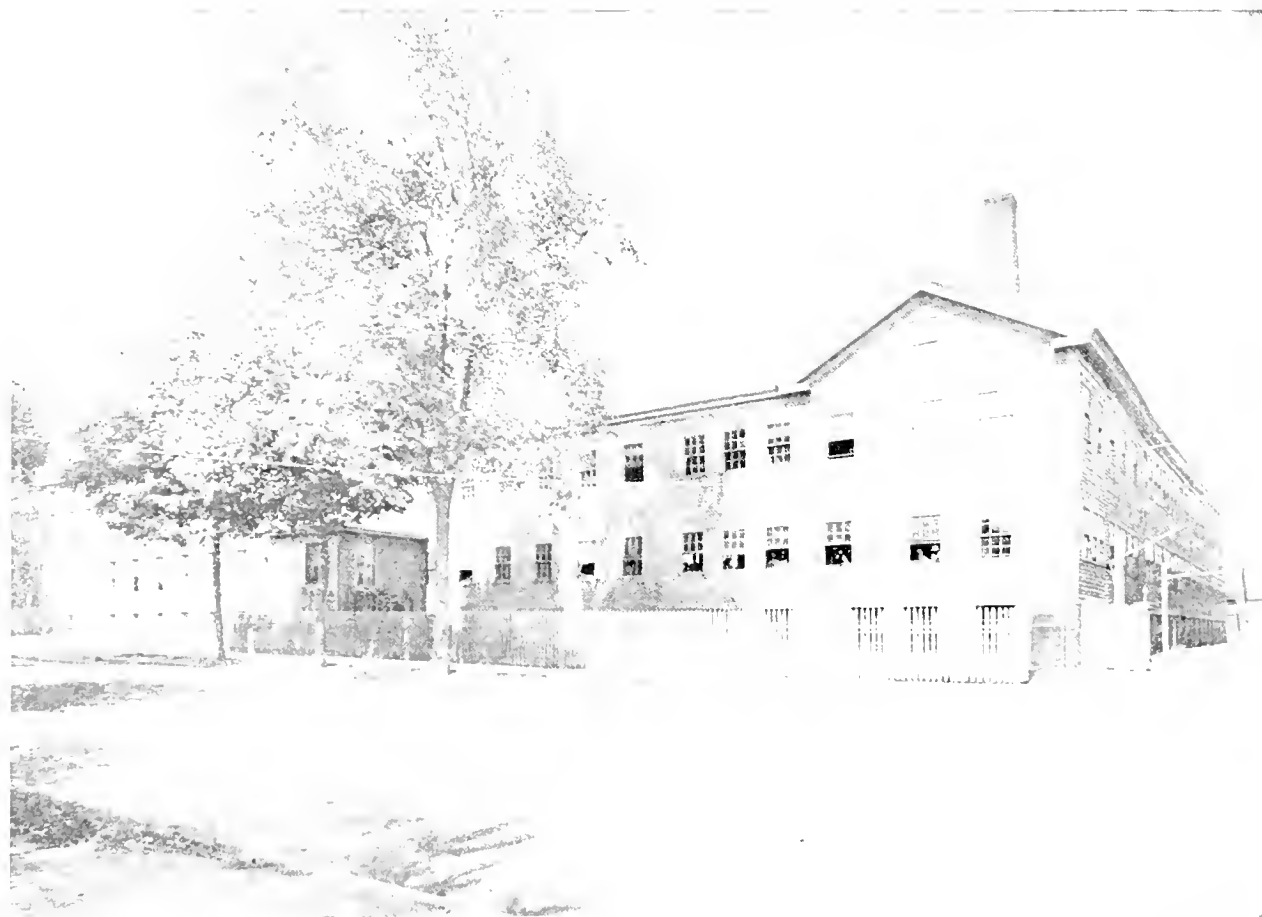
STANLEY RULE AND LEVEL CO.



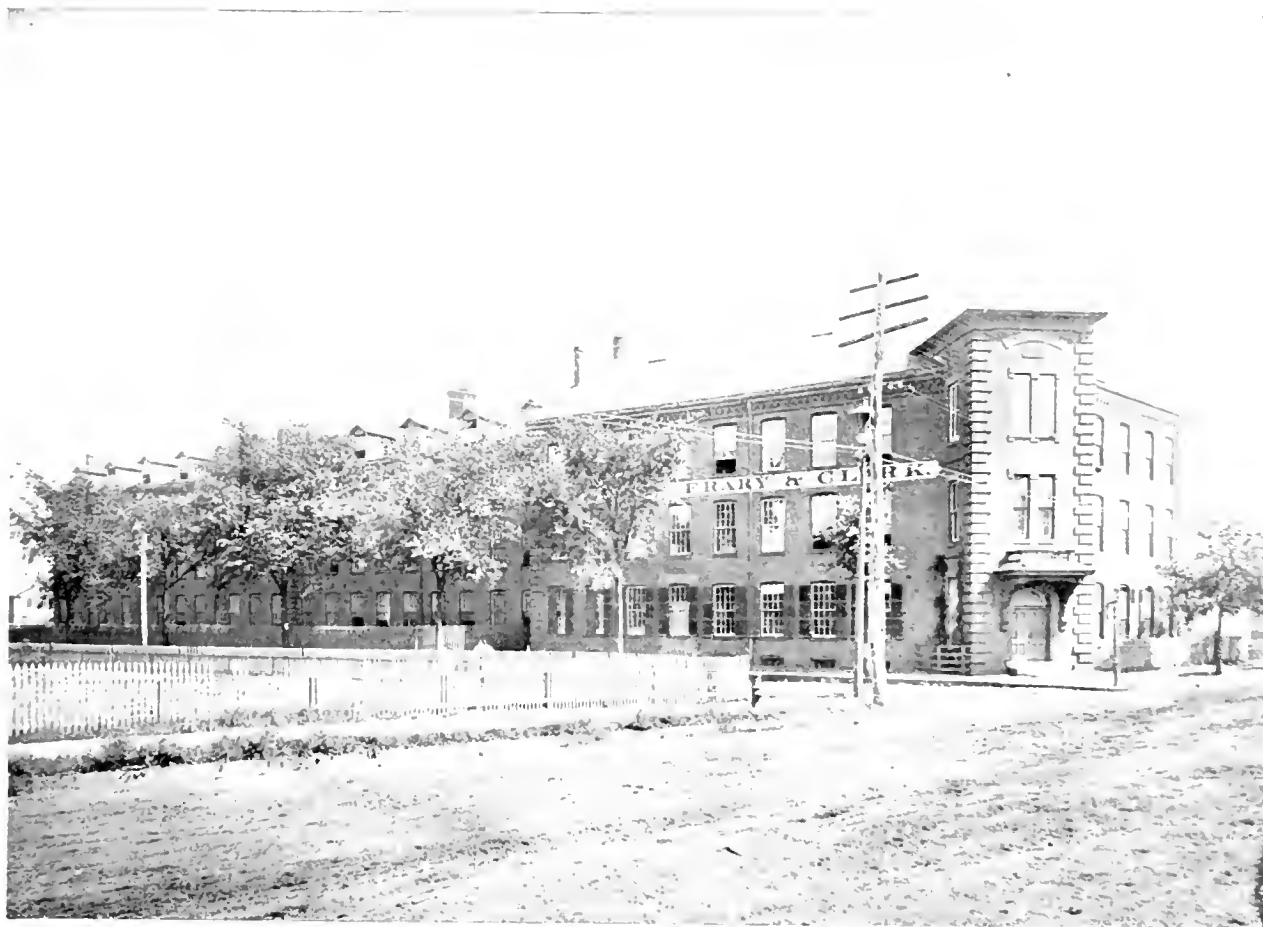
CORBIN CABINET LOCK CO.



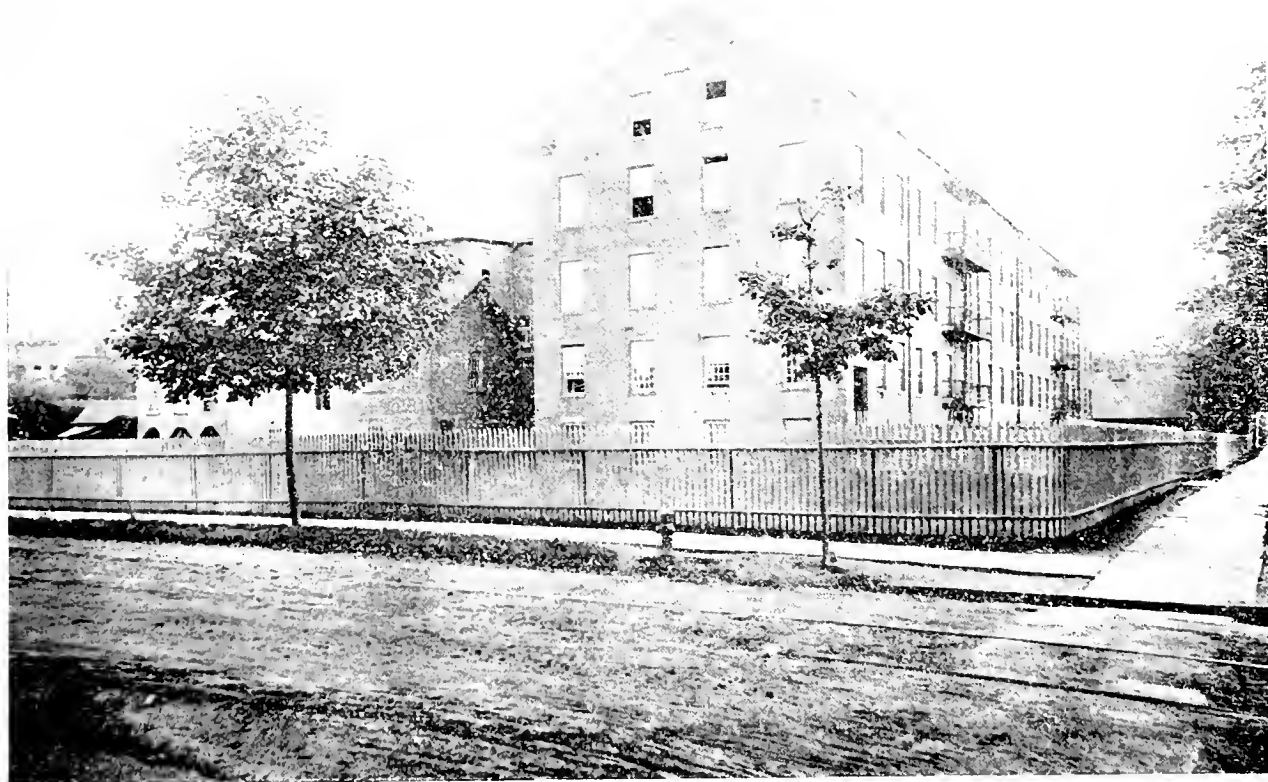
P. & F. CORBIN



LANDERS, PRAY & CLARK HARDWARE WORKS.



LANDERS, FRARY & CLARK,—ETNA WORKS.



NEW BRITAIN KNITTING CO.



AMERICAN HOSEYRY CO



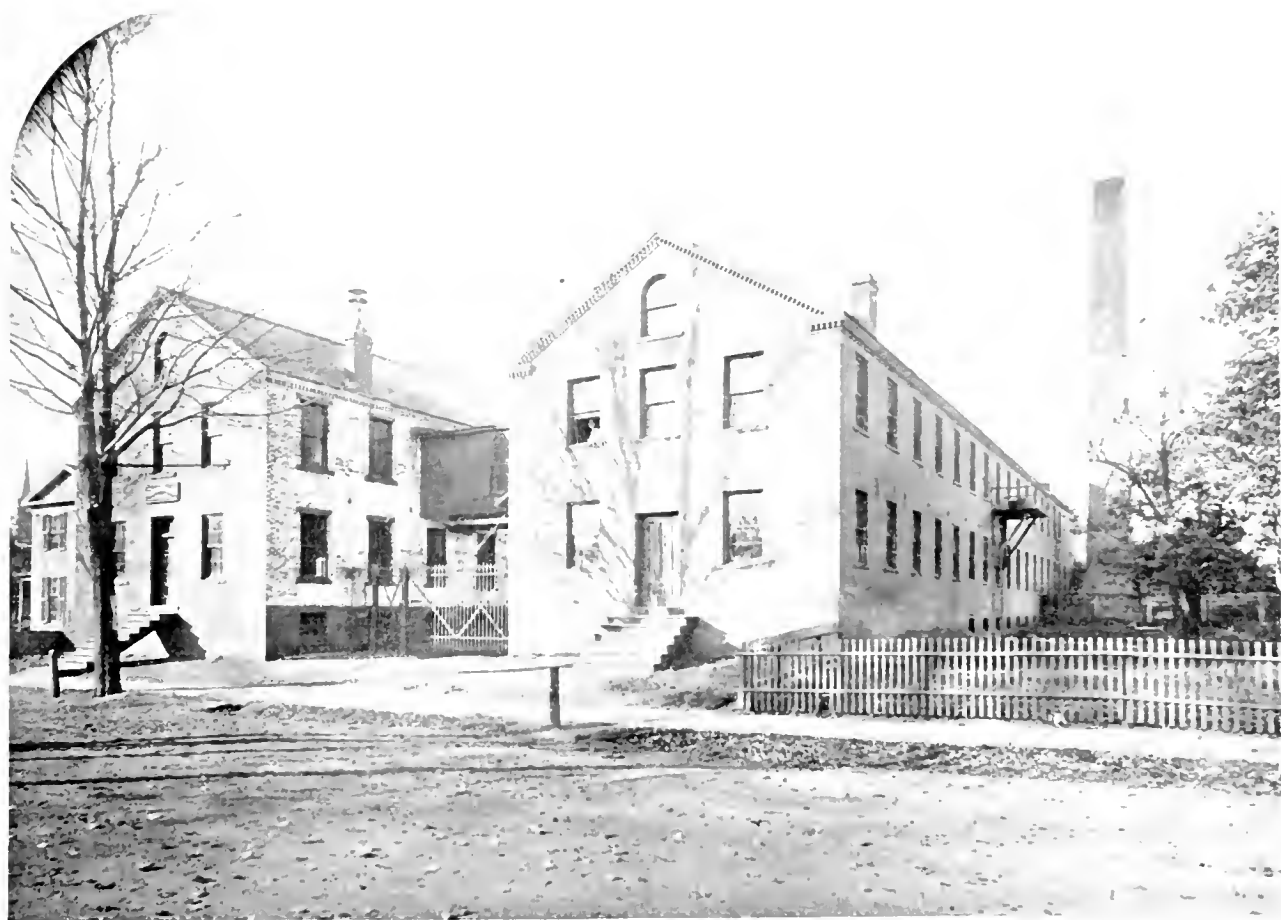
UNION MANUFACTURING CO.



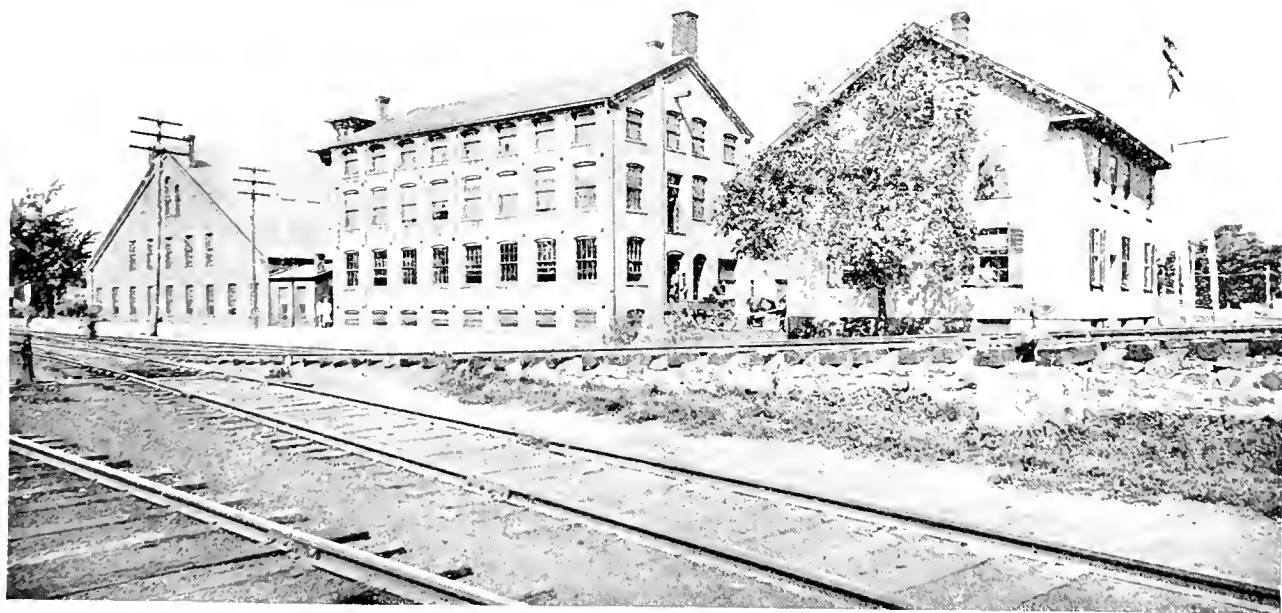
NORTH & JUDD MANUFACTURING CO



VULCAN IRON WORKS.



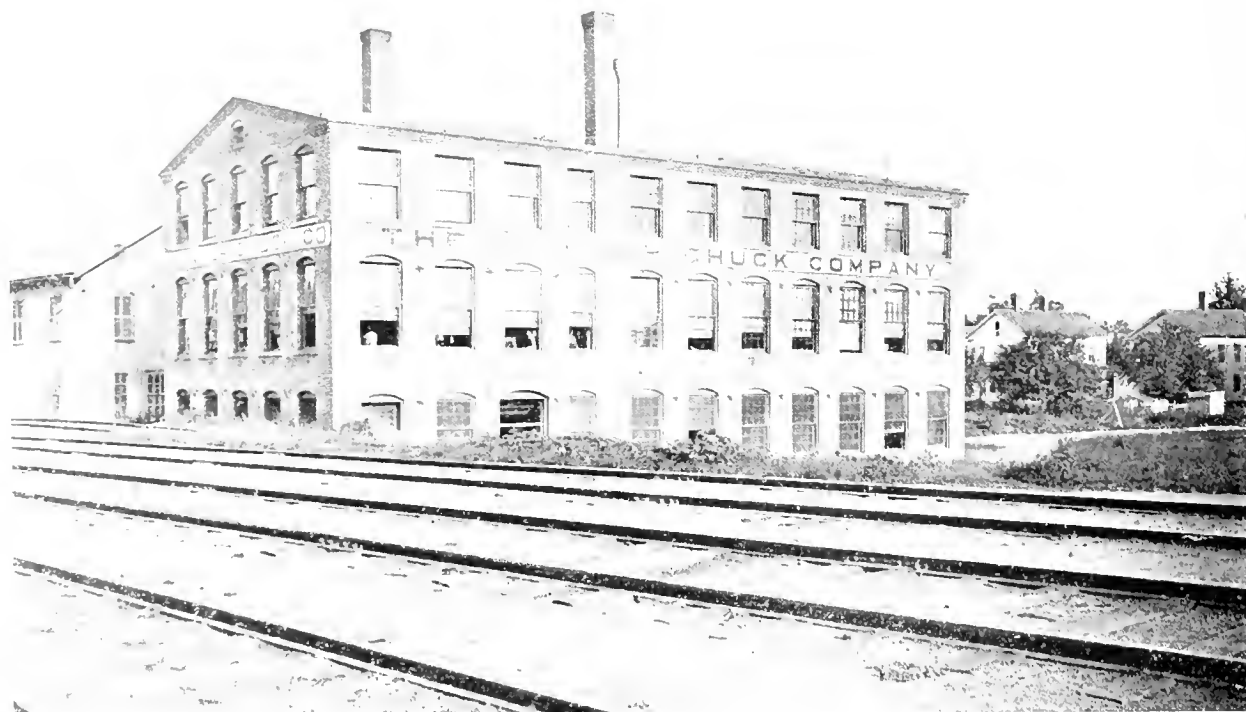
HUMASON & BECKLEY MANUFACTURING CO.



MALLEABLE IRON WORKS.



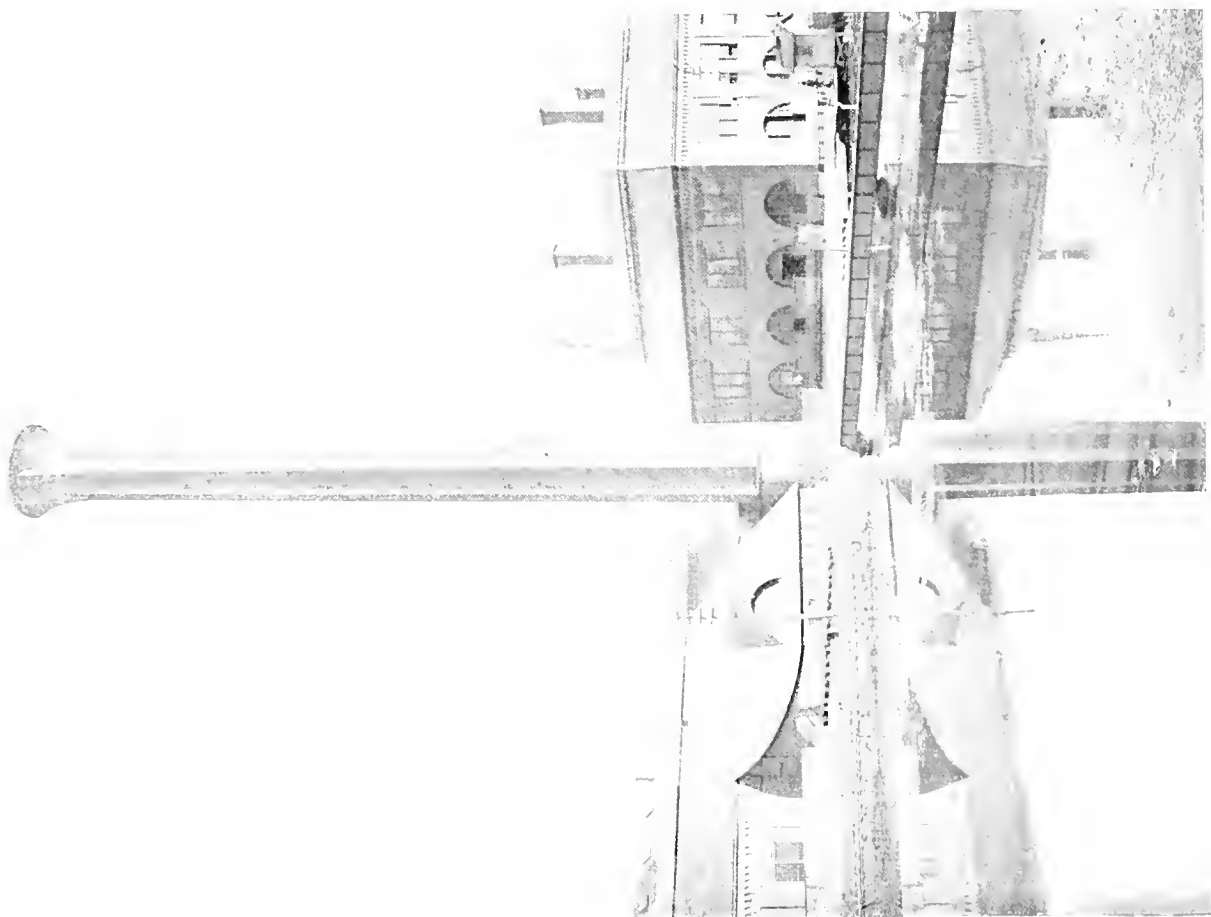
TRUMP & HINE MANUFACTURING CO.



SKINNER CHUCK CO.



NEW BRITAIN HARDWARE MANUFACTURING CO.



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